

**MEMBERS OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY 2016 SESSION**

Sen. Bruce Thompson, Chairman
District 14
25 Hawks Branch Lane
White, GA 30184-3244

Sen. John Kennedy, Vice-Chairman
District 18
231 Riverside Drive
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Sen. Valencia Seay, Secretary
District 34
P.O. Box 960008
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Sen. Brandon Beach
District 21
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Sen. Elena Parent
District 42
774 Springdale Rd NE
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SENATE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY RULES

2015-2016

1. All meetings of the Committee shall be open to the public in accordance with Senate Rule [1-5-1].
2. The quorum for the Science and Technology Committee shall be three (3) members.
3. The Chairman shall determine which bills and resolutions are 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 sole 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. All actions of any subcommittee shall be approved or disapproved by the standing Committee.
5. The committee shall convene recess and adjourn upon the order of the Chairman.
6. The Chairman reserves the right to delay action on substitutes and amendments not provided to the Chairman at least 48 hours prior to the hearing.
7. Any member or members of the Committee who disagree with the majority report of the Committee shall be privileged to file a Minority report in writing, setting forth concise reasons for their dissent.
8. These rules may be amended or waived upon a motion duly made and subsequently approved by a quorum of the Committee, in a meeting called by the Chairman.
9. A bill, resolution, or other matter will be considered only after presentation by its principal author or a legislator whom he or she designated to do so. In the event that 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.
10. When these rules are silent on a specific issue, the Rules of the Senate, as adopted, shall govern.

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
January 25, 2016

The Senate Committee on Science and Technology held a meeting on Monday, January 25, 2016 at 3:00 p.m. in room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building.

The following Senators were present:

Sen. Bruce Thompson (14th), Chairman
Sen. John Kennedy (18th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Valencia Seay (34th), Secretary
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd)

NOTE: Sen. Brandon Beach (21st) was absent.

Chairman Thompson (14th) called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

Mr. Jonathan Walker, a graduate student of Georgia Institute of Technology gave a brief presentation to the Committee. Mr. Walker was the first place winner of the Three-Minute Thesis competition at Georgia Tech. His thesis topic was "Leaving Ancient Rocket Engines Behind," focusing on electrical propulsion as an alternative to chemical fuels for the future of deep space travel.

NOTE: Sen. Beach (21st) arrived at 3:09 p.m.

SR 74 (Sen. Donzella James, 35th) Minority Owned Plasma Centers; encouraging the development

Sen. James (35th) presented SR 74 which had been recommitted from the 2015 Legislative Session.

Sen. Beach (21st) moved SR 74 **Do Pass**. Sen. Seay (34th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

SR 74 DO PASS

With no further business, Chairman Thompson (14th) adjourned the meeting at 3:31 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Sen. Valencia Seay (34th), Secretary

/s/ Lucy Felker, Recording Secretary

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
February 1, 2016

The Senate Committee on Science and Technology held a meeting on Monday, February 1, 2016 at 3:00 p.m. in room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building.

The following Senators were present:

Sen. Bruce Thompson (14th), Chairman
Sen. John Kennedy (18th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Valencia Seay (34th), Secretary
Sen. Brandon Beach (21st)
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd)

Chairman Thompson (14th) called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

Mr. Tino Mantella of the Technology Association of Georgia gave a brief presentation on the state of the technology industry. He highlighted the growing role of Georgia in the industry and the collaborative efforts of several large tech companies. He outlined strengths and challenges for Georgia, including the difficulty in attracting and maintaining a qualified workforce.

SR 360 (Sen. Brandon Beach, 21st) Senate Data Security and Privacy Study Committee; create

Sen. Beach (21st) presented his resolution which had been recommitted from the 2015 Legislative Session. Sen. Beach (21st) offered an amendment for the purpose of creating a committee substitute which would change the effective date from 2015 to 2016.

Kyle Jackson of the Georgia Chamber expressed his support of the resolution.

Sen. Seay (34th) moved **SR 360 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 43 0284S)**. Sen. Kennedy (18th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

SR 360 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE LC 43 0284S

With no further business, Chairman Thompson (14th) adjourned the meeting at 3:39 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Sen. Valencia Seay (34th), Secretary

/s/ Lucy Felker, Recording Secretary

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
February 3, 2016

The Senate Committee on Science and Technology held a meeting on Wednesday, February 3, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. in room 310 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building.

The following Senators were present:

Sen. Bruce Thompson (14th), Chairman
Sen. John Kennedy (18th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Brandon Beach (21st)
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd)

NOTE: Sen. Valencia Seay (34th), Secretary, was absent.

Chairman Thompson (14th) called the meeting to order at 2:06 p.m.

The following bills were presented to the Committee:

[SB 113](#) (Sen. Josh Mckoon, 29th) Motor Vehicles and Traffic; create new class or motor vehicles to be known as autonomous vehicles; definitions; requirements

Summary

Authorizes autonomous vehicles to operate and be tested in Georgia under certain conditions. This bill adds definitions for autonomous technology and autonomous vehicles. The bill lays out the requirements and regulations for testing such a vehicle. This bill was recommitted from the 2015 Legislative Session.

Sen. Mckoon (29th) presented SB 113, laying out a legal environment for autonomous vehicle testing and investment in this industry. The Committee took no action on SB 113.

SB 113 HEARING ONLY

[SR 412](#) (Sen. Harold Jones II, 22nd) Senate Cyber Challenge Study Committee; create

Sen. Jones (22nd) handed out a packet to committee members with more information on the Cyber Challenge initiative. He emphasized that this initiative would put Georgia on a competitive level in the cyber industry. He asked for the Committee's favorable consideration.

NOTE: Sen. Seay arrived at 2:20 p.m.

Chairman Thompson (14th) proposed an amendment for the purpose of creating a committee substitute, changing the dates and asked for a motion on SR 412.

Sen. Beach (21st) moved **SR 412 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 36 2971S)**. Sen. Parent (42nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

SR 412 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE LC 36 2971S

Chairman Thompson (14th) then called Dr. Les Miller, Cardiologist, and Stem Cell Researcher Chairman of Board Alliance for Advancement of Cell Therapy (AACT), for a presentation on stem cell research. He emphasized that stem cell research is one of the greatest potential treatments for nearly all chronic and acute illnesses. He also stated that only adult stem cells are used in this kind of research. Over the last decade many important lessons have been learned and now the nation stands on the threshold of new Era with new cells/sources. Due to the amount of money spent on healthcare there is a need to accelerate the development of this field. There are huge potential cost savings to the Health Care budget by reducing disease burden/progression.

With no further business, Chairman Thompson (14th) adjourned the meeting at 2:56 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Sen. Valencia Seay (34th), Secretary

/s/ Lucy Felker, Recording Secretary

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
February 10, 2016

The Senate Committee on Science and Technology held a meeting on Wednesday, February 10, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. in room 310 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building.

The following Senators were present:

Sen. Bruce Thompson (14th), Chairman
Sen. John Kennedy (18th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Valencia Seay (34th), Secretary
Sen. Brandon Beach (21st)
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd)

Chairman Thompson (14th) called the meeting to order at 2:06 p.m.

Chairman Thompson (14th) called on Joan Herbig and Stacey Holleran of ControlScan to give a cyber-security report to the committee members. They provided a handout to the committee members detailing a survey by ControlScan of mid-market companies and their management of security threats.

SB 276 (Sen. John Albers, 56th) Georgia Personal Data Security Act; enact.

Chairman Thompson (14th) called on Kevin Curtin of the Technology Association of Georgia to testify. Mr. Curtin expressed his opposition to the bill. Chairman Thompson (14th) called on Kyle Jackson of the Georgia Chamber to testify. Mr. Jackson said that originally he had been dubious of the bill, but his concerns had been resolved. Chairman Thompson (14th) said that the final version had only been provided right before the meeting and there had been insufficient time for committee members to fully review it. He would like to take more time for organizations to review and make their positions known, and for committee members to review the bill. The Committee took no action on SB 276.

SB 276 HEARING ONLY

With no further business, Chairman Thompson (14th) adjourned the meeting at 3:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Sen. Valencia Seay (34th), Secretary

/s/ Lucy Felker, Recording Secretary

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
February 17, 2016

The Senate Committee on Science and Technology held a meeting on Wednesday, February 17, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. in room 310 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building.

The following Senators were present:

Sen. Bruce Thompson (14th), Chairman
Sen. Valencia Seay (34th), Secretary
Sen. Brandon Beach (21st)

NOTE: Sen. John Kennedy (18th), Vice-Chairman, and Sen. Elena Parent (42nd) were absent.

Chairman Thompson (14th) called the meeting to order at 2:06 p.m.

[SB 325](#) (Sen. Judson Hill, 32nd) Aviation; provide legislative findings; definitions; preemption of prohibitions; Georgia Unmanned Aircraft Systems Commission; establish.

Sen. Hill (32nd) presented SB 325 to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Parent (42nd) arrived at 2:11 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Kennedy (18th) arrived at 2:13 p.m.

Chairman Thompson (14th) called Lewis Massey of DJI from the audience to testify. Mr. Massey testified in favor of SB 325.

Chairman Thompson (14th) called Mike Giles of the GA Poultry Federation, who testified in support of SB 325.

Chairman Thompson (14th) called Rusi Patel of GMA who raised some concerns on SB 325. He testified that it would be important to make sure that certain public safety abilities would be retained by local government. He also suggested that the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police be placed on the commission.

Chairman Thompson (14th) asked Sen. Hill (32nd) to meet with GMA and any other concerned parties to address concerns and to meet with Legislative Counsel to consolidate changes. He said that the committee would meet on Monday to hear the bill again. The Committee took no action on SB 325.

SB 325 HEARING ONLY

With no further business, Chairman Thompson (14th) adjourned the meeting at 2:32 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Sen. Valencia Seay (34th), Secretary

/s/ Lucy Felker, Recording Secretary

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
February 22, 2016

The Senate Committee on Science and Technology held a meeting on Monday, February 22, 2016 at 3:00 p.m. in room 310 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building.

The following Senators were present:

Sen. Bruce Thompson (14th), Chairman
Sen. John Kennedy (18th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Valencia Seay (34th), Secretary
Sen. Brandon Beach (21st)
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd)

Chairman Thompson (14th) called the meeting to order at 3:07 p.m.

SB 325 (Sen. Judson Hill, 32nd) Aviation; provide legislative findings; definitions; preemption of prohibitions; Georgia Unmanned Aircraft Systems Commission; establish.

Sen. Hill, 32nd, clarified that he would be presenting SB 325 from LC number 43 0337ERS.

Chairman Thompson, 14th, then recognized Ed McGill of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. Mr. McGill stated that he was in favor of the bill, and added that it would be appropriate to have a representative of the USCG as they work closely with law enforcement.

Sen. Beach (21st) moved **SB 325 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 43 0337ERS)**. Sen. Parent (42nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

SB 325 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE LC 43 0337ERS

SB 306 (Sen. P.K. Martin, 9th) “Identity Theft; remove telephone notification as a permissible mean; breach of security involving personal information.”

Summary

Sen. Martin, 9th presented SB 306.

Chairman Thompson, 14th, recognized Robbie Purser of Equifax for testimony. He stated that he had concerns about the bill and opposed it. Elise Blasingame of Georgia Watch testified that she was in favor of SB 306 and stated that there is not a free market for consumers. The Committee took no action on SB 306.

SB 306 HEARING ONLY

With no further business, Chairman Thompson (14th) adjourned the meeting at 4:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Sen. Valencia Seay (34th), Secretary

/s/ Lucy Felker, Recording Secretary

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
March 7th, 2016

The Senate Committee on Science and Technology held a meeting on Monday, March 7, 2016 at 3:00 p.m. in room 310 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building.

The following Senators were present:

Sen. Bruce Thompson (14th), Chairman
Sen. John Kennedy (18th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Valencia Seay (34th), Secretary
Sen. Brandon Beach (21st)
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd)

Chairman Thompson (14th) called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

[HB 676](#) (Rep. Buzz Brockway, 102nd) “Accountability, Change Management, and Process Improvement Act of 2015; enact”

Rep. Brockway (102nd) clarified that he would be presenting HB 676 from LC number 28 7946ERS. He discussed striking language to change the section on management consulting and changed it so that it may be independent of project implementation. The Committee agreed to incorporate this language into the committee substitute.

Sen. Seay (34th) moved **HB 676 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 43 0362ERS)**. Sen. Parent (42nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

HB 676 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE LC 43 0362ERS

[HB 779](#) (Rep. Kevin Tanner, 9th) “Crimes and offenses; regulate use of unmanned aircraft systems and images; provisions.”

Rep. Tanner (9th) and Sen. Hill (32nd) presented HB 779 to the Committee.

NOTE: Chairman Thompson (14th) left the meeting at 3:23 p.m. Vice-Chairman Kennedy (18th) took over as Chair.

The Committee agreed to create a committee substitute in order to add Sen. Hill (32nd)’s preemption language from the Senate version of the legislation, because it would eliminate a patchwork between counties.

Vice-Chairman Kennedy, 18th, recognized Arthur “Skin” Edge from Georgia Link to testify on the bill. Mr. Edge expressed his opposition. Vice-Chairman Kennedy, 18th, then called Lewis Massey of DJI to testify. Mr. Massey expressed his support for the bill adding that he supported the Senate preemption language which creates more predictability for the industry. Vice-Chairman Kennedy, 18th, then called Chris Carpenter of GHMC 360, who stated that he supported Senate preemption language

brought forward by Sen. Hill, 32nd because it would eliminate a “patchwork” of regulation.

With no further questions or testimony, Vice-Chairman Kennedy (18th) thanked Rep. Tanner (9th) and Sen. Hill (32nd). As this was a hearing only, the Committee took no action on HB 779.

HB 779 HEARING ONLY

HB 734 (Rep. Jason Spencer, 180th) “Georgia Space Flight Act; enact.”

Rep. Spencer (180th) presented HB 734 to the Committee.

Vice-Chairman Kennedy (18th) recognized Sen. Ligon (3rd), who offered additional background and information in support of the bill.

Vice-Chairman Kennedy (18th) asked if there were any final questions and thanked Rep. Spencer (180th) for his testimony. As it was a hearing-only, the Committee took no action on HB 734.

HB 734 HEARING ONLY

With no further business, Vice-Chairman Kennedy, 18th, adjourned the meeting at 4:01 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Sen. Valencia Seay (34th), Secretary

/s/ Lucy Felker, Recording Secretary

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
March 14th, 2016

The Senate Committee on Science and Technology held a meeting on Monday, March 14, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. in room 310 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building.

The following Senators were present:

Sen. Bruce Thompson (14th), Chairman

Sen. Valencia Seay (34th), Secretary

Sen. Elena Parent (42nd)

NOTE: Sen. John Kennedy (18th), Vice-Chairman, and Sen. Brandon Beach (21st) were absent.

Chairman Thompson, 14th, called the meeting to order at 4:12 p.m.

[HB 779](#) (Rep. Kevin Tanner, 9th) “Crimes and offenses; regulate use of unmanned aircraft systems and images; provisions.”

NOTE: Sen. Hill (32nd) testified on HB 779 on behalf of Rep. Tanner (9th).

Sen. Hill (32nd) clarified that he would be presenting HB 779 from LC 29 71135S which he and Rep. Tanner (9th) had collaborated on.

Chairman Thompson (14th) recognized Mr. Edge of Georgia Link, who expressed his support for HB 779. Lewis Massey of DJI and Justin Kirnon of GMA also testified in support of HB 779.

Sen. Parent (42nd) moved **HB 779 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 29 7115S)**. Sen. Seay (34th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

HB 779 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE LC 29 7115S

[HB 734](#) (Rep. Jason Spencer, 180th) “Georgia Space Flight Act; enact.”

Rep. Spencer (180th) clarified that he would be presenting HB 734 from LC 297034S.

Chairman Thompson (14th) then recognized Andrew Nelson of the Spaceport Camden Project, who testified in favor of HB 734. Michael Nealey of the Georgia Space Society testified in favor of HB 734, saying that it would create jobs. Chuck Clark of the Camden County Commission also testified in favor of the bill. Sheila McNeil of the Camden Partnership Home also spoke in support of HB 779, saying that it would utilize the transitioning military talent in the area. Grant Rossman a PHD student from Georgia Tech also testified in support, saying it would provide employment for recent graduates. Glen Lightsey, a Georgia Tech professor, spoke in favor of HB 779. Chairman Thompson,

14th, clarified that this was a personal opinion and not the official position of Georgia Tech, which maintained a neutral position. Stephen Sainz of Camden Family Connection, Amy Hendricks of the Camden Chamber, Jason Kemp and Joe Hardy of Hardy Law LLC, and Bob Scaringe and Tiera Cole, residents of Camden all testified in support of HB 779.

Next, Chairman Thompson (14th) recognized April Lipscomb of the Southern Environmental Law Center, who testified against passage of HB 779. Chairman Thompson (14th) then called Mr. Weinkle, a resident of Camden to testify. Mr. Weinkle expressed his opposition to HB 734 and stated that spaceports are failing throughout the U.S. and are not financially viable.

NOTE: Sen. Beach (21st) arrived at 4:43 p.m.

Chairman Thompson (14th) called Lewis Massey, Dick Parker, and Kevin Lang of Coastal Communities Inc., who all testified against HB 734. James Coughlin of the Camden County Joint Development Authority also testified against HB 734, saying that a similar project was being worked on in Cartersville, but it was a liability issue no matter the location.

Chairman Thompson (14th) said he would be in favor of a study committee in order to signal interest in the industry and determine safety and responsibility. Sen. Seay, (34th), said she would be in favor of a study committee in order to verify the accuracy of information. As this was a hearing only, the Committee took no action on HB 734.

HB 734 HEARING ONLY

With no further business, Chairman Thompson, (14th), adjourned the meeting at 5:34 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Sen. Valencia Seay (34th), Secretary

/s/ Lucy Felker, Recording Secretary

April 29th, 2016

To whom it may concern,

As the Senate Committee on Science and Technology Recording Secretary, I am returning SB 113, SB 276, SB 306, and HB 734 to the Office of the Secretary of the Senate.

Best Regards,

Lucy Felker

Recording Secretary