

2016 Senate Committee on Ethics Members

Sen. Dean Burke, Chairman

District 11
1500 East Shotwell Street
Bainbridge, GA 39819

Sen. William T. Ligon, Jr.

District 3
158 Scranton Connector
Brunswick, GA 31525

Sen. Michael Williams, Vice-Chairman

District 27
3482 Keith Bridge Rd Ste. 310
Cumming, GA 30041

Sen. Joshua McKoon

District 29
P. O. Box 2565
Columbus, GA 31902

Sen. Gloria S. Butler, Secretary

District 55
6241 Southland Trace
Stone Mountain, GA 30087

Sen. Butch Miller

District 49
2420 Browns Bridge Road
Gainesville, GA 30504

Sen. Ed Harbison

District 15
P.O. Box 1292
Columbus, GA 31902

Sen. Jesse Stone

District 23
827 N. Liberty Street
Waynesboro, GA 30830

Sen. Bill Jackson

District 24
P.O. Box 528
Appling, GA 30802

Sen. Curt Thompson

District 5
6320 Glenbrook Drive
Tucker, GA 30084

Sen. Rick Jeffares

District 17
1300 Keys Ferry Ct.
McDonough, GA 30253

Sen. Ben Watson

District 1
1326 Eisenhower Drive #2
Savannah, GA 31406

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS
Tuesday, January 26, 2016

The Senate Committee on Ethics held its first meeting of the 2016 Legislative Session on Tuesday, January 26, 2016, at 1:00 p.m. in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sen. Dean Burke (11th), Chairman
Sen. Gloria Butler (55th), Secretary
Sen. Ed Harbison (15th)
Sen. Bill Jackson (24th)
Sen. Rick Jeffares (17th)
Sen. Butch Miller (49th)
Sen. Jesse Stone (23rd)
Sen. Curt Thompson (5th)
Sen. Ben Watson (1st)

NOTE: Sen. Michael Williams (27th), Vice-Chairman, Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd), and Sen. Josh McKoon (29th) were absent.

Chairman Burke (11th) called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m. He started the meeting by stating that the same committee rules would apply as were used in the 2015 session.

SB 199 (Sen. Jeffares, 17th) Elections; provide for a definition; prohibit certain activities within close proximity to polling places

Chairman Burke (11th) called upon Sen. Jeffares (17th) to speak to the bill.

Those speaking in support of the bill were:

Ms. Kimberly Hermann, Senior Counsel, Southeastern Legal Foundation
Mr. Bundy Cobb, speaking on his own behalf

Chairman Burke (11th) asked if anyone else wanted to speak to the bill. Having no others, he asked for a motion.

Sen. Stone (23rd) moved **DO PASS (LC 28 7557)**. Sen. Watson (1st) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with a vote of 8-0.

SB 199 DO PASS

Having no further business, Chairman Burke (11th) adjourned the meeting at 1:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Butler (55th), Secretary

/s/ Diana Hauser, Recording Secretary

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS
Tuesday, February 9, 2016

The Senate Committee on Ethics held its second meeting of the 2016 Legislative Session on Tuesday, February 9, 2016, at 1:00 p.m. in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sen. Dean Burke (11th), Chairman
Sen. Michael Williams (27th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Gloria Butler (55th), Secretary
Sen. Ed Harbison (15th)
Sen. Rick Jeffares (17th)
Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd)
Sen. Josh McKoon (29th)
Sen. Butch Miller (49th)
Sen. Jesse Stone (23rd)
Sen. Curt Thompson (5th)
Sen. Ben Watson (1st)

NOTE: Sen. Bill Jackson (24th) was absent.

Chairman Burke (11th) called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m.

HB 370 (Rep. Barry Fleming, 121st) – Elections; provide for waivers of certain civil penalties and fees incurred by candidates for local elected office; provisions

Chairman Burke (11th) called upon Rep. Fleming (121st) to speak to the bill, which was having a **hearing only** at this meeting. There was a new substitute presented at the meeting, LC 28 7919S, which removed Section 1 of the previous substitute, LC 28 7655S. In addition, Rep. Fleming (121st) brought four new amendments to the substitute. He explained them to the Committee.

Those speaking in support of the bill were:

Ms. Marcie Rubensohn, Georgia Municipal Association (GMA)
Mr. Todd Edwards, Association of County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG)

Chairman Burke (11th) asked if anyone else wanted to speak to the bill. Having no others, he said that a vote on the bill would be scheduled for the next meeting of the Committee.

HB 370 HEARING ONLY

SB 275 (Sen. Williams, 27th) – Local Government; governing body shall not adopt policy that has effect of preventing free exercise of the right of freedom of speech by the members

Chairman Burke (11th) called upon Sen. Williams (27th) to speak to the substitute for the bill, **LC 28 7901S**.

There were two verbal amendments requested.

Amendment #1 was presented by Sen. Ligon (3rd), who asked that the phrase “or any other general law” be removed from line 23 of the substitute (LC 28 7901S). Sen. Ligon (3rd) moved **DO PASS** Amendment #1; Sen. Stone (23rd) seconded the motion. Amendment #1 was **adopted unanimously** for the purpose of creating a new committee substitute.

Amendment #2 was presented by Sen. Stone (23rd), who asked that after the word “rule” on line 18 of the substitute (LC 28 7901S) that “practice,” be added. Sen. Stone (23rd) moved **DO PASS** Amendment #2; Sen. Watson (1st) seconded the motion. Amendment #2 was **adopted unanimously** for the purpose of creating a new committee substitute.

Public speakers were:

Ms. Kristin Morrissey, Forsyth County Board of Education/BOE District #2, speaking for herself, was for the bill.

Ms. Angela Palm, Policy Director for the Georgia School Boards Association, speaking for herself, was against the bill.

Mr. Todd Edwards, ACCG, had no position; however, personally, he was for the changes that were made in the substitute.

NOTE: Sen. Butler (55th) left the meeting before the vote was taken.

Sen. McKoon (29th) moved **DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 28 7940S)**. Sen. Ligon (3rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 8-1, with Sen. Watson (1st) having the “nay” vote.

SB 275 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE

Having no further business, Chairman Burke (11th) adjourned the meeting at 2:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Butler (55th), Secretary

/s/ Diana Hauser, Recording Secretary

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS
Tuesday, February 16, 2016

The Senate Committee on Ethics held its third meeting of the 2016 Legislative Session on Tuesday, February 16, 2016, at 1:30 p.m. in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sen. Dean Burke (11th), Chairman
Sen. Michael Williams (27th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Ed Harbison (15th)
Sen. Rick Jeffares (17th)
Sen. Jesse Stone (23rd)
Sen. Curt Thompson (5th)
Sen. Ben Watson (1st)

NOTE: Sen. Gloria Butler (55th), Secretary, Sen. Bill Jackson (24th), Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd), Sen. Josh McKoon (29th), and Sen. Butch Miller (49th) were absent.

Chairman Burke (11th) called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

HB 370 (Rep. Barry Fleming, 121st) – Elections; provide for waivers of certain civil penalties and fees incurred by candidates for local elected office; provisions

Chairman Burke (11th) presented a new substitute at the meeting, LC 28 7958S, in lieu of Rep. Fleming (121st), who had to be at another meeting. He explained the latest changes to the Committee members.

Chairman Burke (11th) asked if any of the Committee members had questions. Hearing none, he asked for a motion.

Sen. Stone (23rd) moved **DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 28 7958S)**. Sen. Watson (1st) seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 5-1, with Sen. Williams (27th) having the “nay” vote. Chairman Burke (11th) will be the Senate sponsor.

HB 370 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE

Having no further business, Chairman Burke (11th) adjourned the meeting at 1:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Burke (11th), Chairman

/s/ Diana Hauser, Recording Secretary

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

Tuesday, March 8, 2016

The Senate Committee on Ethics held its fourth meeting of the 2016 Legislative Session on Tuesday, March 8, 2016, at 1:00 p.m. in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sen. Dean Burke (11th), Chairman
Sen. Ed Harbison (15th)
Sen. Rick Jeffares (17th)
Sen. Josh McKoon (29th)
Sen. Butch Miller (49th)
Sen. Jesse Stone (23rd)
Sen. Curt Thompson (5th)
Sen. Ben Watson (1st)

NOTE: Sen. Michael Williams (27th), Vice-Chairman, Sen. Gloria Butler (55th), Secretary, Sen. Bill Jackson (24th), and Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd) were absent.

Chairman Burke (11th) called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m. He explained that all bills would be heard but not voted upon at this meeting.

HB 808 (Rep. Wendell Willard, 51st) - Courts; Judicial Qualifications Commission; create

Chairman Burke (11th) called upon Rep. Willard (51st) to speak to the bill.

Chairman Burke (11th) asked if any of the Committee members had questions. A discussion followed.

Speaking against the bill were:

Mr. Thomas Worthy, Director of Governmental Affairs, State Bar of Georgia
Mr. Bob Kaufman, President, State Bar of Georgia
Mr. Lester Tate, Judicial Qualifications Commission, and for himself

HB 808 HEARING ONLY

HR 1113 (Rep. Willard, 51st) - Judicial Qualifications Commission; create – CA

Chairman Burke (11th) called upon Rep. Willard (51st) to speak to the resolution.

Chairman Burke (11th) asked if any of the Committee members had questions. Hearing none, he moved to the next bill on the agenda.

HR 1113 HEARING ONLY

[HB 772](#) (Rep. Heath Clark, 147th) - Elections; advanced voting with regard to Saturday voting; revise period of time

Chairman Burke (11th) called upon Rep. Clark (147th) to speak to the bill.

Chairman Burke (11th) asked if any of the Committee members had questions. Hearing none, he moved to the next bill on the agenda.

HB 772 HEARING ONLY

[HB 980](#) (Rep. Alan Powell, 32nd) - Municipal elections; reopening of qualifications under certain conditions; provide

Chairman Burke (11th) called upon Rep. Jason Spencer (180th) to speak to the bill since Rep. Powell (32nd) had to be at another Committee meeting.

Chairman Burke (11th) asked if any of the Committee members had questions. Hearing none, he moved to the next bill on the agenda.

HB 980 HEARING ONLY

[HB 781](#) (Rep. Brad Raffensperger, 50th) - Local government; individuals appointed to authorities and boards be United States citizens; require

Chairman Burke (11th) called upon Rep. Raffensperger (50th) to speak to the bill.

A brief discussion followed.

Chairman Burke (11th) asked if any of the Committee members had questions. Hearing none, he ended the hearing.

HB 781 HEARING ONLY

Having no further business, Chairman Burke (11th) adjourned the meeting at 1:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Burke (11th), Chairman

/s/ Diana Hauser, Recording Secretary

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS
Tuesday, March 15, 2016

The Senate Committee on Ethics held its fifth and final meeting of the 2016 Legislative Session on Tuesday, March 15, 2016, at 4:00 p.m. in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sen. Dean Burke (11th), Chairman
Sen. Michael Williams (27th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Rick Jeffares (17th)
Sen. Josh McKoon (29th)
Sen. Jesse Stone (23rd)
Sen. Curt Thompson (5th)
Sen. Ben Watson (1st)

NOTE: Sen. Gloria Butler (55th), Secretary, Sen. Ed Harbison (15th), Sen. Bill Jackson (24th), Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd), and Sen. Butch Miller (49th) were absent.

Chairman Burke (11th) called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m.

[HB 808](#) (Rep. Wendell Willard, 51st) - Courts; Judicial Qualifications Commission; create

Chairman Burke (11th) explained the details of the new substitute to the bill, LC 28 8079S.

Chairman Burke (11th) asked if any of the Committee members had questions. Hearing none, he asked for a motion.

Sen. Watson (1st) moved **DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 28 8079S)**. Sen. Jeffares (17th) seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 4-2, with Sen. McKoon (29th) and Sen. Thompson (5th) casting the “nay” votes. Chairman Burke (11th) will be the Senate sponsor.

HB 808 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE

[HR 1113](#) (Rep. Willard, 51st) - Judicial Qualifications Commission; create – CA

Chairman Burke (11th) explained the details of the substitute to the resolution, LC 29 7069S.

Chairman Burke (11th) asked if any of the Committee members had questions. Hearing none, he asked for a motion.

Sen. Watson (1st) moved **DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 29 7069S)**. Sen. Jeffares (17th) seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 4-2, with Sen. McKoon (29th) and Sen. Thompson (5th) casting the “nay” votes. Chairman Burke (11th) will be the Senate sponsor.

HR 1113 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE

HB 772 (Rep. Heath Clark, 147th) - Elections; advanced voting with regard to Saturday voting; revise period of time

Chairman Burke (11th) called upon Rep. Clark (147th) to speak to the bill.

Chairman Burke (11th) asked if any of the Committee members had questions. Hearing none, he asked for a motion.

Sen. Watson (1st) moved **DO PASS (LC 28 7802)**. Sen. Jeffares (17th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with a vote of 6-0. Sen. Watson (1st) will be the Senate sponsor.

HB 772 DO PASS

HB 980 (Rep. Alan Powell, 32nd) - Municipal elections; reopening of qualifications under certain conditions; provide

Chairman Burke (11th) called upon Sen. Steve Gooch (51st) to speak to the new substitute for the bill, LC 44 0176S.

Chairman Burke (11th) asked if any of the Committee members had questions. Hearing none, he asked for a motion.

Sen. Jeffares (17th) moved **DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 44 0176S)**. Sen. McKoon (29th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with a vote of 6-0. Sen. Gooch (51st) will be the Senate sponsor.

HB 980 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE

Having no further business, Chairman Burke (11th) adjourned the meeting at 4:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Burke (11th), Chairman

/s/ Diana Hauser, Recording Secretary

March 17, 2016

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

Dear Mr. Cook:

The following bills are being reported as having no action taken on them by the **Senate Ethics Committee** during the 2016 Legislative Session:

[Senate Bill 21](#)

[Senate Bill 22](#)

[Senate Bill 25](#)

[Senate Bill 26](#)

[Senate Bill 27](#)

[Senate Bill 28](#)

[Senate Bill 31](#)

[Senate Bill 33](#)

[Senate Bill 102](#)

[Senate Bill 146](#)

[Senate Bill 151](#)

[Senate Bill 235](#)

[Senate Bill 266](#)

[Senate Bill 289](#)

[Senate Bill 318](#)

[Senate Bill 363](#)

[Senate Bill 394](#)

[Senate Bill 399](#)

[Senate Resolution 27](#)

[Senate Resolution 44](#)

[Senate Resolution 330](#)

[House Bill 121](#)

[House Bill 781](#)

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Hauser
Senate Ethics Committee
Recording Secretary

