

SENATE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

2016 MEMBERS

Senator Fran Millar, Chairman

District 40

P.O. Box 88096
Atlanta, GA 30356
Phone: (404) 923-3607

Senator Josh McKoon

District 29

P. O. Box 2565
Columbus, GA 31902
Phone: (706) 442-9130

Senator P.K. Martin, Vice Chairman

District 9

455 Pine Forest Drive
Lawrenceville, GA 30046
Phone: (770) 378-2102

Senator Nan Orrock

District 36

1070 Delaware Avenue SE
Atlanta, GA 30316
Phone: (404) 524-5999

Senator Burt Jones, Secretary

District 25

407 East Second Street
Jackson, GA 30233
Phone: (770) 775-4880

Senator Bruce Thompson

District 14

25 Hawks Branch Lane
White, GA 30184-3244
Phone: (404) 660-1165

Senator Frank Ginn

District 47

P. O. Box 1136
Danielsville, GA 30633
Phone: (706) 680-4466

Senator Michael Williams

District 27

3482 Keith Bridge Rd Ste 310
Cumming, GA 30041
Phone: (404) 656-7127

Senator Lester Jackson

District 2

1501 Abercorn Street
Savannah, GA 31401
Phone: (912) 233-7970

**JOINT MEETING OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
AND THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION**

The Senate Committee on Higher Education and the House Committee on Higher Education met on Wednesday, January 27, 2016 at 3:00 p.m. in Room 406 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building.

SENATORS PRESENT:

Sen. Fran Millar (40th), Chairman
Sen. P. K. Martin (9th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Frank Ginn (47th)
Sen. Lester Jackson (2nd) Sen. Nan Orrock (36th)
Sen. Bruce Thompson (14th)

NOTE: Sen. Burt Jones (25th), Secretary, Sen. Josh McKoon (29th), and Sen. Michael Williams (27th) were absent.

Chairman Millar (40th) called the Senate Higher Education meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

Chairman Millar (40th) presented the 2015-2016 Senate Higher Education Committee Rules.

Sen. Thompson (14th) made the motion to readopt the 2015-2016 Senate Higher Education Committee Rules. Sen. Jackson (2nd) seconded the motion. The adoption of the Rules passed unanimously.

Several guest speakers appeared before the Committee to present developments that pertain to higher education. They, and their remarks in the areas they discussed, were as follows:

Dr. Steve Wrigley, Executive Vice Chancellor, Board of Regents

Governor Deal has announced Complete College Georgia, which is a plan of the governor's attainment goals for the state. Some focus areas of the initiative include college readiness, improving access and completion for underserved students, shortening the time to degree, and academic advising. Another issue is that of college affordability and Chancellor Huckabee's concern with the increase of college tuition. Chairman Millar (40th) proposed a possible study committee that focuses on high costs, increases in college tuition, and needs-based aid scholarships.

Gretchen Corbin, Commissioner, Technical College System of Georgia

In 2015, TCSG had over 135,000 students receiving a technical education, nearly 45,000 enrolled in adult education, and close to 74,000 in the Quick Start program. Technical education is the largest component of TCSG and is gradually increasing. However, in 2015, enrollment fell 5.2% due to the improvement in the economy. Enrollment rates tend to follow the economy. Despite lower enrollment, TCSG is experiencing a high increase in graduation rates. This corresponds to the new expansions with the Georgia

Film Academy at Clayton State University and Gwinnett Tech. TCSG is above the Complete College Georgia goal. Dual Enrollment has dramatically increased, especially with the addition of the Move On When Ready initiative. There have also been 11 additions to the Strategic Industries Workforce Development Grant program.

Trisha Chastain, President, Georgia Student Finance Commission (GSFC)

- **Financial Aid Programs**

Lottery-funded programs include the Hope Scholarship, Zell Miller Scholarship, HOPE grant, Strategic Industries Workforce Development Grant, Zell Miller Grant, and HOPE GED grant. State-funded programs available can be found on the educational services GACollege411.org website.

- **Path2College 529 Plan**

A plan was established in 2002 to assist families in preparing for future expenses associated with college, such as tuition, fees, books, technology, and room and board. This is a tax-free way to save for college, as there are no starting fees or annual fees. HB 835 would allow Georgia taxpayers the opportunity to allocate a portion of their personal state income tax refund directly into a Path2College 529 Plan.

- **Move On When Ready**

Student funding for the MOWR initiative includes tuition, books, and fees. From FY2015 Fall to FY2016 Fall, there was a dramatic increase in enrollment of more than 6,000 students in the MOWR program. The program is now offered to 9th and 10th graders, but the majority of students are seniors and juniors. CTAE courses are also available now and GSFC believes they are reaching more students that they were not reaching before.

Corinna M. Robinson, Executive Director, Georgia Nonpublic Postsecondary Education Commission (GNPEC)

The purpose of GNPEC is to ensure each authorized college or school is educationally sound and financially stable. GNPEC works to assure prospective and enrolled students that the program of study and supporting elements of the institutions meet minimum standards, assure prospective employers that institutions have been vetted for providing graduates with appropriate job skills, and to assure the general public, federal agencies, and other state agencies that programs meet minimum standards. The primary goal for 2016 is consumer protection. Other goals to focus on are increasing GNPEC's role in the public eye, conducting public forums, and publishing an agency brochure.

Chairman Millar (40th) adjourned the Senate Higher Education meeting at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Fran Millar (40th), Chairman

/s/ Donna Nealey, Recording Secretary

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION RULES – 2015 & 2016

1. These Committee Rules of Operations shall be consistent with Senate Rule 2-1.5 (d) regarding the establishment of Rules of Operation.
2. Quorum of the Committee shall be Five (5) 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. (Senate Rule 2)

JOINT MEETING OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

The Senate Committee on Higher Education and Senate Committee on Health and Human Services met on Wednesday, February 3, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building.

SENATORS PRESENT:

Sen. Fran Millar (40th), Chairman
Sen. Burt Jones (25th), Secretary
Sen. Frank Ginn (47th)
Sen. Lester Jackson (2nd)
Sen. Josh McKoon (29th)
Sen. Nan Orrock (36th)

NOTE: Sen. P. K. Martin (9th), Vice-Chairman, Sen. Bruce Thompson (14th), and Sen. Michael Williams (27th) were absent.

The meeting was called to order at 2:10 p.m. by Chairman Millar (40th) and Chairman Renee Unterman (45th) of Senate Health and Human Services.

Several guest speakers appeared before the Committee to present their system-wide campus safety initiative, as recommended by the USG Campus Safety and Security Committee.

Chancellor Hank Huckaby, University System of Georgia

In 2014, a task force was appointed in regards to campus safety and recommendations were to be made no later than May 2015. A recurring issue noticed by Chancellor Huckaby was the complexity Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 brought about.

Sam Burch, Vice Chancellor of Legal Affairs, University System of Georgia

Three primary areas of focus identified through the Campus Safety and Security Committee were:

1. Developing campus and system-level practices for responding to, and addressing sexual misconduct and offenses against students.
2. Reviewing policies and procedures to ensure we have effective practices for reporting and tracking information related to campus crime as required by the Clery Act.
3. Assessing campus law enforcement to ensure compliance with state and federal laws, maintenance of healthy relationships with our communities and local law enforcement, and continuing provision of effective training for officers.

Title IX Sexual Assault and Misconduct

One of the significant areas of focus by the Committee included different ways to address sexual misconduct and sexual assault, as it affects students. Sexual misconduct and sexual assaults are quickly becoming a priority for compliance under Title IX. All colleges and universities are to have a Title IX coordinator who is in charge of training, awareness, and complaints in regards to sexual misconduct. Schools must investigate each and every complaint filed, whether or not it has been reported to authorities and the investigation should be concluded in a semester's time.

Notification and Reporting under Clery Act

A Clery Act coordinator and a corresponding Clery coordinator committee have been established at each institution in the University System of Georgia. This has helped create consistency in student affairs, housing, human resources, legal affairs, and university police, all of which are involved in Clery requirements. The committee also established a system-level Clery Coordinator and a corresponding system-level Clery Committee, which consists of institutional coordinators.

Campus Law Enforcement

There are police forces on each of the 29 University System of Georgia campuses. Officers on campus receive the same training as local law enforcement, but are also provided specialized training to ensure they can handle unique circumstances that may occur on a college campus.

The Chief's Leadership Initiative Program was established and it trains campus police chiefs to be better leaders and to develop their skills in working with local law enforcement and the community. It also includes training from the FBI and Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers.

A new comprehensive training requirement was developed for all campus police, which includes core training curriculum to launch in summer 2016 (up to 30 hours of training), and specialized training for procedures and requirements under Title IX, Clery.

A comprehensive campus police department assessment program has also been developed and implemented. It is managed from the System Office through the Director of Safety and Security. The assessment program will be used to review the performance and procedures of each institution's campus police departments.

Drug and Alcohol Taskforce

Chancellor Huckaby created an alcohol and substance abuse taskforce to research the underlying impacts on campuses and developing ways of addressing these risks. They will be looking directly at local government and permitting/regulations, potential training programs related to alcohol and drug prevention, and impacts across all campus organizations and activities. The taskforce includes law enforcement, faculty, and students. A final report and recommendations are expected to be completed this spring.

Jeff Tony, Georgia Independent College Association

In regards to criminal activity on college campuses, private schools are more likely to report this conduct to the GBI. Private colleges work closely with the GBI in cases of sexual misconduct and sexual assault. Instead of having just the schools investigate the complaint, it is usually sent over to the GBI for further investigation to have the issue resolved more quickly. This helps to ensure student safety in a reasonable time-frame.

Vernon Keenan, Director, Georgia Bureau of Investigation

The director told the Committee that local law enforcement is responsible for conducting criminal investigations only when a report is filed with the police. They have no authority concerning Title IX and must be invited by the college or administration to investigate any sexual misconduct or sexual assault cases. The GBI participates in these investigations routinely. Local law enforcement should also be notified if and when a criminal act is committed on campus involving a third party.

Chairman Millar (40th) adjourned the meeting at 3:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Burt Jones (25th), Secretary

/s/ Donna Nealey, Recording Secretary

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

The Senate Committee on Higher Education met on Wednesday, February 10, 2016 at 3:00 p.m. in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building.

SENATORS PRESENT:

Sen. Fran Millar (40th), Chairman
Sen. P. K. Martin (9th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Burt Jones (25th), Secretary
Sen. Frank Ginn (47th)
Sen. Bruce Thompson (14th)
Sen. Michael Williams (27th)

NOTE: Sen. Lester Jackson (2nd), Sen. Josh McKoon (29th), and Sen. Nan Orrock (36th) were absent.

The meeting was called to order at 3:08 p.m. by Chairman Millar (40th).

SB 329 (Sen. Lindsey Tippins, 37th, LC 33 6416) Education; expand provisions relating to awarding of high school diplomas based on certain dual credit coursework

Sen. Tippins (37th), the author of SB 329, presented the bill. It fixes operational issues regarding Dual Enrollment credit and HOPE Scholarship eligibility requirements, but its primary purpose is setting forth the stipulations to receive a high school diploma.

The intent of this bill is to bridge the gap that was created in previous legislation, concerning scholarships from technical colleges and two- and four-year institutions. HOPE Grants are given to students taking technical courses, while the HOPE Scholarship is given to students that are taking academic courses. Previously, students receiving credit for a Technical Certification and wanting to transfer to a two- or four-year institution were unable to receive the HOPE Scholarship, nor were students transferring from a university to a technical college able to receive the HOPE Grant.

Sen. Ginn (47th) made a motion **SB 329 Do Pass**. Sen. Jones (25th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

SB 329 DO PASS

Chairman Millar (40th) adjourned the meeting at 3:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Burt Jones (25th), Secretary

/s/ Donna Nealey, Recording Secretary

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

The Senate Committee on Higher Education met on Wednesday, February 17, 2016 at 3:00 p.m. in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building.

SENATORS PRESENT:

Sen. Fran Millar (40th), Chairman
Sen. P. K. Martin (9th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Burt Jones (25th), Secretary
Sen. Frank Ginn (47th)
Sen. Lester Jackson (2nd)
Sen. Nan Orrock (36th)
Sen. Bruce Thompson (14th)
Sen. Michael Williams (27th)

NOTE: Sen. Josh McKoon (29th) was absent.

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Chairman Millar (40th).

SB 312 (Sen. Charlie Bethel, 54th, LC 33 6319) HOPE; revise a definition; establish minimum HOPE award amounts

Sen. Charlie Bethel (54th), the author of SB 312, presented the bill. It ensures the dual promise of HOPE scholarship and will provide more tuition money to students attending access institutions, such as technical colleges and commuter schools.

Under current law, HOPE scholarship awards are based on percentage and are equal to the number of credit hours that a student is enrolled in per semester, not to exceed 15 credit hours.

The scholarship money will be distributed differently among students in Georgia. Whereas Zell Miller scholars will continue to receive full tuition, students attending technical colleges and access institutions will be provided \$2,000 or less per semester (not exceeding tuition costs), and the rest of qualifying students will receive a percentage of their tuition.

A fiscal note attached to the bill, estimated by the Georgia Student Finance Commission, estimates that this bill will increase the HOPE scholarship between \$8.3 million and \$10 million in FY 2017.

The bill will encourage students to go to smaller, local colleges to receive free tuition if they qualify. It is also expected to increase enrollment for the technical and access institutions.

Sen. Jones (25th) made a motion **SB 312 Do Pass**. Sen. Orrock (36th) seconded the motion. The yea votes were Sen. Martin (9th), Sen. Jones (25th), Sen. Jackson (2nd), Sen. Orrock (36th), Sen. Thompson (14th), and Sen. Williams (27th). The nay vote was Sen. Ginn (47th). The motion passed 6-1.

SB 312 DO PASS

SR 467 HEARING ONLY (Sen. Donzella James, 35th, LC 41 0483) Senate Higher Education Access and Success for Homeless and Foster Youth Study Committee; create

Sen. James (35th), author of SR 467, presented the resolution. The Study Committee will carry out a study of the conditions, needs, and problems in regards to access to higher education for students who live in foster homes or are homeless.

The Study Committee will examine different ways to benefit students who are in foster care or homeless situations in pursuit of career preparation and degrees from The University System of Georgia and/or The Technical College System of Georgia.

The Study Committee will consist of five members, three of which would be picked by the President of the Senate. The President will choose a chairperson from the three members. The Speaker of the House of Representatives will designate two House members to participate on the Committee.

SR 467 HEARING ONLY

Chairman Millar (40th) adjourned the meeting at 3:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Burt Jones (25th), Secretary

/s/ Donna Nealey, Recording Secretary

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

The Senate Committee on Higher Education met on Wednesday, February 24, 2016 at 3:00 p.m. in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building.

SENATORS PRESENT:

Sen. Fran Millar (40th), Chairman
Sen. P. K. Martin (9th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Frank Ginn (47th)
Sen. Josh McKoon (29th)
Sen. Michael Williams (27th)

NOTE: Sen. Burt Jones (25th), Secretary, Sen. Lester Jackson (2nd), Sen. Nan Orrock (36th), and Sen. Bruce Thompson (14th) were absent.

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Chairman Millar (40th).

SR 983 (Sen. Fran Millar, 40th, LC 40 1090) Deferred Action for Childhood; create Senate Study Committee

Chairman Millar (40th), author of SR 983, presented the resolution. It will study the costs and what other states are doing in regards to DACA.

Sen. McKoon (29th) made a motion **SR 983 Do Pass**. Sen. Williams (27th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

SR 983 DO PASS

SR 1001 (Sen. Millar, 40th, LC 40 1089) Higher Education Affordability; create Senate Study Committee

Chairman Millar (40th), author of SR 1001, presented the resolution.

Sen. Williams (27th) made a motion **SR 1001 Do Pass**. Sen. McKoon (40th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

SR 1001 DO PASS

SR 467 (Sen. Donzella James, 35th, LC 41 0483) Senate Higher Education Access and Success for Homeless and Foster Youth Study Committee; create

Sen. James (35th), author of SR 467, presented the resolution.

Sen. McKoon (29th) made a motion **SR 467 Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Williams (27th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

SR 467 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE LC 40 1121S

Chairman Millar (40th) adjourned the meeting at 3:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Fran Millar (40th), Chairman

/s/ Donna Nealey, Recording Secretary

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

The Senate Committee on Higher Education met on Wednesday, March 9, 2016 at 1:00 p.m. in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building.

SENATORS PRESENT:

Sen. Fran Millar (40th), Chairman
Sen. P. K. Martin (9th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Burt Jones (25th), Secretary
Sen. Frank Ginn (47th)
Sen. Lester Jackson (2nd)
Sen. Josh McKoon (29th)
Sen. Nan Orrock (36th)
Sen. Bruce Thompson (14th)

NOTE: Sen. Michael Williams (27th) was absent.

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m. by Chairman Millar (40th).

HB 54 (Rep. Keisha Waites, 60th, LC 40 1085S) Tuition grants; children of officers killed in line of duty who attend University System institutions and meet certain requirements; provide

Rep. Waites (60th), author of HB 54, presented the bill. The “Shawn Smiley Act” provides for donations through state income tax returns and drivers’ licenses for a scholarship fund that goes to children of law enforcement officers, firefighters, EMTs, prison guards, and Highway Emergency Response Operators who were disabled or killed in the line of duty.

Sen. Thompson (14th) made a motion **HB 54 Do Pass**. Sen. Jones (25th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Orrock (36th) will be the Senate Sponsor.

HB 54 DO PASS

NOTE: Sen. McKoon (29th) left the meeting and did not vote on HB 54. He returned shortly afterwards.

HB 798 (Rep. Joyce Chandler, 105th, HB 798/CSFA) HOPE; home study students who receive certain scores on standardized college admission tests; provide eligibility

Rep. Chandler (105th), author of HB 798, presented the bill. It updates the Zell Miller Scholarship eligibility requirements in regards to minimum standardized testing scores by introducing a minimum requirement of an SAT/ACT score in the eightieth percentile or higher for students from eligible schools, home study programs, and ineligible high schools. It also updates the HOPE Scholarship eligibility requirements for students that did not graduate from an eligible high school and shall qualify for the Zell Miller Scholarship if they score in the ninety-third percentile or higher, or the eightieth percentile if they also earn at least a 3.3 GPA from a qualified postsecondary institution after attempting 45 quarter hours or 30 semester hours. It also changes the current HOPE

Scholarship standardized testing score requirement from the eightieth percentile to the seventy-fifth or higher.

Sen. Jones (25th) made a motion **HB 798 Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Thompson (14th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Marty Harbin (16th) will be the Senate sponsor.

HB 798 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE LC 40 1178S

HB 801 (Rep. Jan Jones, 47th, LC 33 6377S) **HOPE; include certain coursework in computer science as optional rigor requirements; revise provisions**

Rep. Jones (47th), author of HB 801, presented the bill. It revises HOPE Scholarship requirements to include coursework in computer science, gives weighted scores for certain science, technology, engineering, and math college courses chosen by the Board of Regents that will provide a 0.5 point increase if the student's final grade is a B, C, or D, and requires the Georgia Student Finance Commission to submit a biennial report. It also amends the effective dates for the terms "HOPE award rate," "factor rate," and "HOPE tuition payment."

Sen. Jones (25th) made a motion **HB 801 Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Ginn (47th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Miller (49th) will be the Senate sponsor.

HB 801 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE LC 33 6582S

NOTE: Sen. McKoon (29th) left the meeting and did not vote on HB 801. He returned shortly afterwards.

HB 1072 (Rep. Christian Coomer, 14th, LC 39 1319) **Education; service cancelable loan fund; remove ineligibility for such loans for members of the Georgia National Guard also receiving HOPE**

Rep. Coomer (14th), author of HB 1072, presented the bill. It removes the current eligibility standards for service cancelable educational loans for members of the Georgia National Guard, who also receive HOPE Scholarship or grants. Current law states National Guard members are not eligible to receive service cancelable loans while receiving HOPE Scholarship or grant funds. The bill removes the limitation.

Sen. Thompson (14th) made a motion **HB 1072 Do Pass**. Sen. Jones (25th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Hunter Hill (6th) will be the Senate sponsor.

HB 1072 DO PASS

NOTE: Sen. Ginn (47th) left the meeting and did not vote on HB 1072.

Chairman Millar (40th) adjourned the meeting at 1:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Burt Jones (25th), Secretary

/s/ Donna Nealey, Recording Secretary

April 1, 2016

Mr. David Cook

Secretary of the Senate

State Capitol

Atlanta, GA 30334

RE: Senate Higher Education Committee – 2016 Session

Dear Secretary Cook:

The Senate Higher Education Committee respectfully submits the following 13 Senate bills, House bills, Senate resolutions and/or House resolutions left in the Senate Higher Education committee after the 2016 General Assembly session:

SB13 SB14 SB37 SB44 SB155 SB178 SB 179 SB322 SR12 SR13 SR605 SR1040

HB315

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Senator Fran Millar

Chairman Senate Higher Education
Education Committee

Donna Nealey

Legislative Assistant Senate Higher