

## SENATE COMMITTEE ON RULES MEMBERS LIST

Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd), Chairman  
212 English Avenue  
Chickamauga, GA 30707

Sen. Judson Hill (32nd)  
P.O. Box 486  
Reidsville, GA 30453

Sen. Jack Hill (4th), Vice-Chairman  
P.O. Box 1356  
Perry, GA 31069

Sen. Fran Millar (40th)  
P.O. Box 88096  
Atlanta, GA 30356

Sen. Bill Jackson (24th), Secretary  
P.O. Box 528  
Appling, GA 30802

Sen. Butch Miller (49th)  
2420 Browns Bridge Road  
Gainesville, GA 30504

Sen. Gloria Butler (55th)  
6241 Southland Trace  
Stone Mountain, GA 30087

Sen. Horacena Tate (38th)  
121-A State Capitol  
Atlanta, GA 30334

Sen. Bill Heath (31st)  
2225 Cashtown Road  
Bremen, GA 30110

Sen. Renee Unterman (45th)  
P.O. Box 508  
Buford, GA 30518

Sen. Steve Henson (41st)  
2643 Sterling Acres Drive  
Tucker, GA 30084

### EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th)  
P.O. Box 512  
Athens, GA 30603

Sen. William T. Ligon, Jr. (3rd)  
158 Scranton Connector  
Brunswick, GA 31525

Sen. Steve Gooch (51st)  
P.O. Box 600  
Dahlonega, GA 30533

Sen. David Shafer (48th)  
P.O. Box 880  
Duluth, GA 30096

Sen. Hunter Hill (6th)  
2451 Cumberland Parkway, Ste. 3439  
Atlanta, GA 30339

Sen. John Wilkinson (50th)  
P.O. Box 2227  
Toccoa, GA 30577

**Rules of the Senate Committee on Rules**  
**2015-2016**

1. A quorum of the Committee shall be seven (7) members.
2. The Committee shall convene, recess, and adjourn upon the order of the Chairman.
3. The Chairman shall determine which bills and resolutions are eligible to be considered and the order in which said measures are placed upon the Calendar for Senate consideration.
4. A bill or resolution will be considered by the Rules Committee as a committee only after at least one presentation to the Committee by one of its principal authors or designee.
5. The Chairman shall have the right to refer bills or resolutions to Subcommittee for study and recommendations.
6. The Chairman, in his discretion, may allow individual members of the Committee to place a bill or resolution upon the Calendar so long as the measure is chosen from those determined to be eligible for consideration by the Chairman.
7. If an eligible bill or resolution is objected to by any member of the Committee, the Committee, upon majority vote, may nevertheless place the same upon the calendar.
8. These rules may be amended upon motion duly made and subsequently approved by two-thirds of the members of the Committee.
9. Where these rules are silent on a specific issue, the Rules of the Senate, as adopted, shall govern.

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Rules  
January 26, 2016**

A meeting of the Senate Committee on Rules was held on January 26, 2016, in Room 450 of the Capitol. Senate members present included:

Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd), Chairman  
Sen. Jack Hill (4th), Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Bill Jackson (24th), Secretary  
Sen. Gloria Butler (55th)  
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Bill Heath (31st)  
Sen. Hunter Hill (6th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Judson Hill (32nd)  
Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Fran Millar (40th)  
Sen. Butch Miller (49th)  
Sen. David Shafer (48th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Horacena Tate (38th)

**NOTE:** Sen. Steve Henson (41st), Sen. Renee Unterman (45th), and Sen. John Wilkinson (50th), Ex-Officio, were absent.

Chairman Mullis (53rd) called the meeting to order at 11:38 a.m.

The following legislation was placed on the Rules calendar for the next session day:

**[SB 137](#)**

Sen. Jackson (24th) made a **MOTION** to place the above legislation on the next session day's Rules calendar, and Sen. Ligon, Jr. (3rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Bill Jackson (24th), Secretary

/s/ Debra Charnote, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Rules  
January 27, 2016**

A meeting of the Senate Committee on Rules was held on January 27, 2016, in Room 450 of the Capitol. Senate members present included:

Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd), Chairman  
Sen. Jack Hill (4th), Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Gloria Butler (55th)  
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Judson Hill (32nd)  
Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Fran Millar (40th)  
Sen. David Shafer (48th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Renee Unterman (45th)  
Sen. John Wilkinson (50th), Ex-Officio

**NOTE:** Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Ex-Officio; Sen. Bill Heath (31st); Sen. Steve Henson (41st), Sen. Hunter Hill (6th), Ex-Officio; Sen. Bill Jackson (24th), Secretary; Sen. Butch Miller (49th); and Sen. Horacena Tate (38th) were absent.

Chairman Mullis (53rd) called the meeting to order at 11:58 a.m.

The following legislation was placed on the Rules calendar for the next session day:

**[SB 263](#)**

Sen. Shafer (48th) made a **MOTION** to place the above legislation on the next session day's Rules calendar, and Sen. Cowsert (46th) seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**[SR 833](#) (Sen. Vincent Fort, 39th) Senate Rules; amend**

Sen. Fort (39th) presented the resolution. The resolution authorizes standing committees to place registered lobbyists under oath or affirmation when testifying before the Committee in regard to certain legislation.

This resolution amends Senate Rule 2-6.1, which relates to Committee testimony, recording, and transcripts, by authorizing each standing committee of the Senate listed in Senate Rule 2-1.3(a) to place persons registered as lobbyists under oath or affirmation when testifying before the Committee in regard to legislation which is then in possession of the Committee.

Any sworn or affirmed testimony is subject to the provision in current law which prohibits false swearing. Persons convicted of the offense of false swearing are subject to

a fine of up to \$1,000; imprisonment of at least one year, but not more than five years; or both.

Concerns were raised by various Committee members that this should be handled in a study committee and not as a change to Senate Rules.

Sen. Shafer (48th) moved that **SR 833 Do Not Pass** and Sen. Cowsert (46th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**SR 833 DO NOT PASS**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 12:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd), Chairman

/s/ Debra Charnote, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Rules**  
**January 28, 2016**

A meeting of the Senate Committee on Rules was held on January 28, 2016, in Room 450 of the Capitol. Senate members present included:

Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd), Chairman  
Sen. Jack Hill (4th), Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Gloria Butler (55th)  
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Bill Heath (31st)  
Sen. Judson Hill (32nd)  
Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Fran Millar (40th)  
Sen. Butch Miller (49th)  
Sen. David Shafer (48th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Horacena Tate (38th)

**NOTE:** Sen. Steve Henson (41st), Sen. Hunter Hill (6th), Ex-Officio; Sen. Bill Jackson (24th), Secretary; Sen. Renee Unterman (45th), and Sen. John Wilkinson (50th), Ex-Officio, were absent.

Chairman Mullis (53rd) called the meeting to order at 11:39 a.m.

The following legislation was placed on the Rules calendar for the next session day:

**[SB 279](#)**

Sen. Cowsert (46th) made a **MOTION** to place the above legislation on the next session day's Rules calendar, and Sen. Miller (49th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 11:51 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd) Chairman

/s/ Debra Charnote, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Rules  
February 1, 2016**

A meeting of the Senate Committee on Rules was held on February 1, 2016, in Room 450 of the Capitol. Senate Members present included

Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd), Chairman  
Sen. Jack Hill (4th), Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Bill Jackson (24th), Secretary  
Sen. Gloria Butler (55th)  
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Bill Heath (31st)  
Sen. Steve Henson (41st)  
Sen. Hunter Hill (6th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Judson Hill (32nd)  
Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Fran Millar (40th)  
Sen. Butch Miller (49th)  
Sen. David Shafer (48th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Horacena Tate (38th)  
Sen. Renee Unterman (45th)  
Sen. John Wilkinson (50th), Ex-Officio

Chairman Mullis (53rd) called the meeting to order at 11:12 a.m.

The following legislation was placed on the Rules calendar for the next session day:

[SB 193](#)      [SB 243](#)

Sen. Jackson (24th) made a **MOTION** to place the above legislation on the next session day's Rules calendar, and Sen. Gooch (51st) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**NOTE:** SB 384 *Hearing Only*

[SB 384](#) (Sen. Greg Kirk, 13th) "**First Amendment Defense Act of Georgia**"

Sen. Kirk (13th) presented the bill. The bill provides that state and local governments may not take any "discriminatory action" against any natural person or faith-based organization on the basis that such person or faith-based organization believes, speaks, or acts in accordance with a sincerely held religious belief or moral conviction regarding lawful marriage between two people, including the belief that marriage is or should be recognized as the union of one man and one woman or that sexual relations are properly reserved to such a union. It also sets forth definitions for "discriminatory actions," defines "faith-based organization" as any organization or other legal entity whose

governing documents or mission statement expressly acknowledges a religious belief or purpose.

It allows the provisions of the bill to be asserted as a claim or defense in a judicial, agency, or other proceeding and to obtain relief against government entities by natural persons or faith-based organizations. The bill also provides that administrative remedies need not be exhausted before seeking such relief. This gives the Attorney General authority to seek declaratory and injunctive relief.

This allows an aggrieved natural person or faith-based organization who prevails to seek attorneys' fees and litigation expenses. It sets forth a procedure for giving notice of claims for damages to governments and establishes a liability cap for damages for losses arising from a single occurrence. It provides that acts of natural persons and faith-based organizations protected by this bill may not be considered in determining any accreditation, licensure, or certification by any state or local government.

The bill also clarifies that nothing in the bill will afford protection or relief to a public officer or employee who fails or refuses to perform his or her official duties. It waives sovereign immunity for claims brought by natural persons or faith-based organizations seeking declaratory relief, injunctive relief, attorneys' fees, and litigation expenses against the state or its political subdivisions for lawsuits brought under this bill and provides that the provisions of the bill control if there are conflicts with the Georgia Tort Claims Act.

Cathy Wollard of Georgia Equality spoke in opposition to the bill, stating the definition was too broad and that it provided a narrow view regarding marriage as only between a man and a woman.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 11:28 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Bill Jackson (24th), Secretary

/s/ Debra Charnote, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Rules  
February 2, 2016**

A meeting of the Senate Committee on Rules was held on February 2, 2016, in Room 450 of the Capitol. Senate members present included:

Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd), Chairman  
Sen. Jack Hill (4th), Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Bill Jackson (24th), Secretary  
Sen. Gloria Butler (55th)  
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Bill Heath (31st)  
Sen. Hunter Hill (6th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Fran Millar (40th)  
Sen. Butch Miller (49th)  
Sen. Horacena Tate (38th)  
Sen. Renee Unterman (45th)  
Sen. John Wilkinson (50th), Ex-Officio

**NOTE:** Sen. Steve Henson (41st), Sen. Judson Hill (32nd), Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd), Ex-Officio, and, Sen. David Shafer (48th), Ex-Officio were absent.

Chairman Mullis (53rd) called the meeting to order at 11:55 a.m.

The following legislation was placed on the Rules calendar for the next session day:

[SB 199](#)      [SB 273](#)

Sen. Unterman (45th) made a **MOTION** to place the above legislation on the next session day's Rules calendar, and Sen. Jack Hill (4th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 11:57 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Bill Jackson (24th), Secretary

/s/ Debra Charnote, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Rules  
February 3, 2016**

A meeting of the Senate Committee on Rules was held on February 3, 2016, in Room 450 of the Capitol. Senate members present included:

Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd), Chairman  
Sen. Jack Hill (4th), Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Bill Jackson (24th), Secretary  
Sen. Gloria Butler (55th)  
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Bill Heath (31st)  
Sen. Steve Henson (41st)  
Sen. Judson Hill (32nd)  
Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Butch Miller (49th)  
Sen. David Shafer (48th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Horacena Tate (38th)  
Sen. Renee Unterman (45th)

**NOTE:** Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Ex-Officio, Sen. Hunter Hill (6th), Ex-Officio, Sen. Fran Millar (40th), and Sen. John Wilkinson (50th), Ex-Officio, were absent.

Chairman Mullis (53rd) called the meeting to order at 12:11 p.m.

The following legislation was placed on the Rules calendar for the next session day:

**[SB 230](#)**

Sen. Cowsert (46th) made a **MOTION** to place the above legislation on the next session day's Rules calendar, and Sen. Unterman (45th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**NOTE:** SR 683 *Hearing Only*

**[SR 683](#) (Sen. Bill Heath, 31<sup>st</sup>) **General Assembly; prohibit from adopting conference committee report unless publicly available overnight –CA****

Sen. Heath (31st) presented the resolution. The resolution is proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Georgia so as to prohibit the General Assembly from adopting a conference committee report unless such report has been publicly available overnight; to provide for submission of this amendment for ratification or rejection; and for other purposes.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 12:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Bill Jackson (24th), Secretary

/s/ Debra Charnote, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Rules**  
**February 4, 2016**

A meeting of the Senate Committee on Rules was held on February 4, 2016, in Room 450 of the Capitol. Senate members present included:

Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd), Chairman  
Sen. Jack Hill (4th), Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Bill Jackson (24th), Secretary  
Sen. Gloria Butler (55th)  
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Bill Heath (31st)  
Sen. Hunter Hill (6th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Judson Hill (32nd)  
Sen. Fran Millar (40th)  
Sen. David Shafer (48th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Horacena Tate (38th)  
Sen. Renee Unterman (45th)  
Sen. John Wilkinson (50th), Ex-Officio

**NOTE:** Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Ex-Officio, Sen. Steve Henson (41st), Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd), Ex-Officio, and Sen. Butch Miller (49th), were absent.

Chairman Mullis (53rd) called the meeting to order at 12:09 p.m.

The following legislation was placed on the Rules calendar for the next session day:

[SB 278](#)      [SB 283](#)

Sen. Hill (6th) made a **MOTION** to place the above legislation on the next session day's Rules calendar, and Sen. Miller (49th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 12:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Bill Jackson (24th), Secretary

/s/ Debra Charnote, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Rules  
February 8, 2016**

A meeting of the Senate Committee on Rules was held on February 8, 2016, in Room 450 of the Capitol. Senate members present included:

Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd), Chairman  
Sen. Jack Hill (4th), Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Bill Jackson (24th), Secretary  
Sen. Gloria Butler (55th)  
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Hunter Hill (6th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Judson Hill (32nd)  
Sen. Fran Millar (40th)  
Sen. Butch Miller (49th)  
Sen. David Shafer (48th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Horacena Tate (38th)  
Sen. Renee Unterman (45th)  
Sen. John Wilkinson (50th), Ex-Officio

**NOTE:** Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Ex-Officio, Sen. Bill Heath (31st), Sen. Steve Henson (41st), and Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd), Ex-Officio, were absent.

Chairman Mullis (53rd) called the meeting to order at 11:52 a.m.

The following legislation was placed on the Rules calendar for the next session day:

[SB 255](#)      [SB 307](#)      [HB 742](#)

Sen. Cowsert (46th) made a **MOTION** to place the above legislation on the next session day's Rules calendar, and Sen. Jackson (24th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Bill Jackson (24th), Secretary

/s/ Debra Charnote, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Rules**  
**February 9, 2016**

A meeting of the Senate Committee on Rules was held on February 9, 2016, in Room 450 of the Capitol. Senate members present included:

Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd), Chairman  
Sen. Jack Hill (4th), Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Bill Jackson (24th), Secretary  
Sen. Gloria Butler (55th)  
Sen. Bill Heath (31st)  
Sen. Steve Henson (41st)  
Sen. Hunter Hill (6th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Judson Hill (32nd)  
Sen. Fran Millar (40th)  
Sen. Butch Miller (49th)  
Sen. Horacena Tate (38th)  
Sen. Renee Unterman (45th)

**NOTE:** Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Ex-Officio, Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Ex-Officio, Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd), Ex-Officio, Sen. David Shafer (48th), Ex-Officio, and Sen. John Wilkinson (50th), Ex-Officio, were absent.

Chairman Mullis (53rd) called the meeting to order at 11:45 a.m.

The following legislation was placed on the Rules calendar for the next session day:

[SB 262](#)      [HB 750](#)

Sen. Unterman (45th) made a **MOTION** to place the above legislation on the next session day's Rules calendar, and Sen. Jackson (24th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 11:49 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Bill Jackson (24th), Secretary

/s/ Debra Charnote, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Rules  
February 10, 2016**

A meeting of the Senate Committee on Rules was held on February 10, 2016, in Room 450 of the Capitol. Senate members present included:

Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd), Chairman  
Sen. Bill Jackson (24th), Secretary  
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Bill Heath (31st)  
Sen. Steve Henson (41st)  
Sen. Hunter Hill (6th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Fran Millar (40th)  
Sen. David Shafer (48th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Horacena Tate (38th)  
Sen. Renee Unterman (45th)  
Sen. John Wilkinson (50th), Ex-Officio

**NOTE:** Sen. Gloria Butler (55th), Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Ex-Officio, Sen. Jack Hill (4th), Vice-Chairman, Sen. Judson Hill (32nd), Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd), Ex-Officio, and Sen. Butch Miller (49th), were absent.

Chairman Mullis (53rd) called the meeting to order at 4:31 p.m.

The following legislation was placed on the Rules calendar for the next session day:

[SB 115](#)      [SB 158](#)      [SB 271](#)      [SB 308](#)

Sen. Unterman (45th) made a **MOTION** to place the above legislation on the next session day's Rules calendar, and Sen. Jackson (24th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 4:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Bill Jackson (24th), Secretary

/s/ Debra Charnote, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Rules  
February 11, 2016**

A meeting of the Senate Committee on Rules was held on February 11, 2016, in Room 450 of the Capitol. Senate members present included:

Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd), Chairman  
Sen. Bill Jackson (24th), Secretary  
Sen. Gloria Butler (55th)  
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Steve Henson (41st)  
Sen. Hunter Hill (6th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Judson Hill (32nd),  
Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Butch Miller (49th)  
Sen. David Shafer (48th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Horacena Tate (38th)  
Sen. Renee Unterman (45th)

**NOTE:** Sen. Bill Heath (31st), Sen. Jack Hill (4th), Vice-Chairman, Sen. Fran Millar (40th), and Sen. John Wilkinson (50th), Ex-Officio, were absent.

Chairman Mullis (53rd) called the meeting to order at 1:13 p.m.

The following legislation was placed on the Rules calendar for the next session day:

[\*\*SB 115\*\*](#)      [\*\*SB 158\*\*](#)      [\*\*SB 290\*\*](#)      [\*\*SB 320\*\*](#)

Sen. Jackson (24th) made a **MOTION** to place the above legislation on the next session day's Rules calendar, and Sen. Hill (32nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**NOTE:** Sen. Cowsert (46th) and Sen. Unterman (45th) left at 1:33 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Heath (31st) arrived at 1:35 p.m.

[\*\*SR 177\*\*](#) (Sen. Donzella James, 35th) **Capitol Arts Standards Commission; encouraged to authorize; placement of portrait of Mrs. Coretta Scott King**

Sen. James (35th) presented the resolution. The resolution encourages the Capitol Arts Standards Commission to authorize the placement of a portrait of Mrs. Coretta Scott King in the State Capitol alongside the portrait of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Sen. Miller (49th) moved that **SR 177 Do Pass** and Sen. Tate (38th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## **SR 177 DO PASS**

### **SR 842 (Sen. William Ligon, Jr., 3rd) Legislative Process; create Senate Study Committee**

Sen. Ligon, Jr. (3rd) presented the resolution. The resolution creates the Senate Study Committee on the Legislative Process (not a recommitted bill). The Committee will evaluate and determine an efficient, transparent method of reviewing bills, amendments, substitute bills, and conference committee reports to promote the confidence of the citizens of the State of Georgia in the legislative process. The Committee is composed of the President Pro Tempore, the Majority Leader, the Minority Leader, and four other members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate, one of whom is a member of the minority party. The Committee stands abolished on December 1, 2016. \* The Committee Sub (LC 28 7959S) reflects a change/amendment made in the Committee meeting to include a member of the minority party. •

Sen. Henson (41st) moved that **SR 842 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 28 7959S)** and Sen. Tate (38th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **SR 842 DO PASS BY SUBSTITTUTE LC 28 7959S**

### **SR 908 (Steve Gooch, 51st) Senate Electronic Driver's License Study Committee; create**

Sen. Gooch (51st) presented the resolution. The resolution creates the Senate Electronic Driver's License Study Committee. Many states, including Georgia, allow electronic proof of insurance. An electronic driver's license could benefit the state through reduced costs, increased efficiency, reduced wait times at local driver's license offices, and reduced instances of fraud. The Committee will examine the feasibility of electronic driver's licenses, including the costs and resources required, advantages and disadvantages, privacy and security issues, and practical use by law enforcement. The Committee is composed of five members of the Senate, each appointed by the President of the Senate, who would also designate a chairperson.

Sen. Miller (49th) moved that **SR 908 Do Pass** and Sen. Tate (38th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **SR 908 DO PASS**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 1:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Bill Jackson (24th), Secretary

/s/ Debra Charnote, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Rules  
February 16, 2016**

A meeting of the Senate Committee on Rules was held on February 16, 2016, in Room 450 of the Capitol. Senate members present included

Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd), Chairman  
Sen. Bill Jackson (24th), Secretary  
Sen. Gloria Butler (55th)  
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Bill Heath (31st)  
Sen. Hunter Hill (6th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Judson Hill (32nd),  
Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Fran Millar (40th)  
Sen. Butch Miller (49th)  
Sen. David Shafer (48th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Renee Unterman (45th)  
Sen. John Wilkinson (50th)

**NOTE:** Sen. Jack Hill (4th), Vice-Chairman, Sen. Steve Henson (41st), and Sen. Horacena Tate (38th) were absent.

Chairman Mullis (53rd) called the meeting to order at 12:58 p.m.

The following legislation was placed on the Rules calendar for the next session day:

[\*\*SB 270\*\*](#)      [\*\*SB 282\*\*](#)      [\*\*SB 305\*\*](#)      [\*\*SB 319\*\*](#)

Sen. Unterman (45th) made a **MOTION** to place the above legislation on the next session day's Rules calendar, and Sen. Hill (32nd) seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**NOTE:** Sen. Hill (4th), Sen. Henson (41st), and Sen. Tate (38th) arrived at 1:10 p.m.

[\*\*HB 757\*\*](#) (**Rep. Kevin Tanner, 9th**) **Domestic relations; religious officials shall not be required to perform marriage ceremonies in violation of their legal right; provide**

Sen. Kirk (13th) and Rep. Tanner (9th) presented the bill. The bill includes the First Amendment Defense Act and Pastor Protection Act combined.

Part 1 (Pastor Protection Act)

- Provides that no minister, cleric, or religious practitioner ordained or authorized to perform marriage ceremonies—when acting in his or her official religious capacity—is required to solemnize any marriage in violation of his or her right to free exercise of

religion under the Georgia and United States constitutions. The bill also provides that refusal by an ordained or authorized person pursuant to this bill will not give rise to a civil claim or cause of action against such person or result in any state action to penalize, withhold benefits from, or discriminate against such person.

- Provides that no business or industry can be required by ordinance or resolution of any county, municipality, or consolidated government to operate on Saturday or Sunday.
- Defines “religious organization” as “a church, a religious school, an association or convention of churches, a convention mission agency, or an integrated auxiliary of a church or convention or association of churches” if such organization is qualified as an exempt religious organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
- Provides that no religious organization can be required to rent, lease, or otherwise grant permission for property to be used by another person for purposes which are objectionable to such religious organization. The bill also provides that refusal by a religious organization pursuant to this bill will not give rise to a civil claim or cause of action against such religious organization or its employees or result in any state action to penalize, withhold benefits from, or discriminate against the religious organization or such employee.

#### Part 2 (First Amendment Defense Act)

- Provides that state and local governments may not take any “discriminatory action” against any natural person or faith-based organization on the basis that such person or faith-based organization believes, speaks, or acts in accordance with a sincerely held religious belief or moral conviction regarding lawful marriage between two people, including the belief that marriage is or should be recognized as the union of one man and one woman or that sexual relations are properly reserved to such a union.
- Sets forth definitions for “discriminatory actions.”
- Defines “faith-based organization” as any organization or other legal entity whose governing documents or mission statement expressly acknowledges a religious belief or purpose.
- Allows the provisions of the bill to be asserted as a claim or defense in a judicial, agency, or other proceeding and to obtain relief against government entities by natural persons or faith-based organizations. The bill also provides that administrative remedies need not be exhausted before seeking such relief.
- Gives the Attorney General authority to seek declaratory and injunctive relief.
- Allows an aggrieved natural person or faith-based organization who prevails to seek attorneys’ fees and litigation expenses.
- Sets forth a procedure for giving notice of claims for damages to governments and establishes a liability cap for damages for losses arising from a single occurrence.
- Provides that acts of natural persons and faith-based organizations protected by this bill may not be considered in determining any accreditation, licensure, or certification by any state or local government.
- Clarifies that nothing in the bill will afford protection or relief to a public officer or employee who fails or refuses to perform his or her official duties.
- Waives sovereign immunity for claims brought by natural persons or faith-based organizations seeking declaratory relief, injunctive relief, attorneys’ fees, and litigation

expenses against the state or its political subdivisions for lawsuits brought under this bill and provides that the provisions of the bill control if there are conflicts with the Georgia Tort Claims Act.

The Committee Sub (LC 25 6573) differs from the As Introduced version because it adds language (revised) from FADA that limits the application of FADA to natural persons and to “faith-based organizations.”

In support of the bill were Faith and Freedom Coalition (Virginia Galloway), Citizen Impact, American Principles Project, and Georgia Baptist Mission Board (Convention).

In opposition to the bill were Georgia Equality, Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and Southern Jewish Resource Network.

Sen. Gooch (51st) moved that **HB 757 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 25 6573S)** and Sen. Heath (31st) seconded. The motion passed 13-3. The yea votes were Sen. Hill (4th), Sen. Jackson (24th), Sen. Cowser (46th), Sen. Gooch (51st), Sen. Heath (31st), Sen. Hill (6th), Sen. Hill (32nd), Sen. Ligon, Jr. (3rd), Sen. Millar (40th), Sen. Miller (49th), Sen. Shafer (48th), Sen. Unterman (45th), and Sen. Wilkinson (50th). The nay votes were Sen. Butler (55th), Sen. Henson (41st), and Sen. Tate (38th).

#### **HB 757 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE LC 25 6573S**

#### **SR 675 (Sen. Josh McKoon, 29th) State of Georgia; English as official language -CA**

Sen. McKoon (29th) presented the resolution. The resolution is a constitutional amendment declaring English as the official language of Georgia, with exceptions (not a recommitted bill). If ratified by the voters, it will prohibit any law, ordinance, decree, program, or policy of this state including, but not limited to, the administration of driver’s license examinations for all classes of licenses by the Department of Driver Services, from using any language other than English for any documents, regulations, orders, transactions, proceedings, meetings, programs, or publications (Doesn’t apply to private communications, including those between state officials).

However, the state may use a language other than English for the following purposes:

- To teach or encourage the learning of languages other than English;
  - To protect the public health or safety;
  - To teach English to those who are not fluent in the language;
  - To permit the use of American Sign Language and to comply with any other applicable federal law;
  - To protect the rights of victims of crime and criminal defendants;
  - To ensure equality of access to a court of competent jurisdiction;
  - To promote diplomacy, trade, commerce, and tourism;
  - To create or promote state or agency mottos, inscribe public monuments, and perform other acts involving the customary use of a language other than English;
- and

- To utilize terms of art or terms of phrases from other languages which are commonly used in communications otherwise in English.

Sen. McKoon (29th) noted that 31 states (including Georgia) identify English as their official language by statute and that 11 of those states also provide for this in their state constitutions. Sen. McKoon (29th) noted that the operative language in the current statute would be identical in the proposed constitutional amendment. Sen. McKoon (29th) noted, in response to a question from Sen. Henson (41st), that this bill would not raise sentiment against non-English speakers, but would instead bring attention to the need for English proficiency, which is required to be demonstrated as part of the naturalization process. Sen. McKoon (29th) noted that the English requirement was implemented in statute 20 years ago and that no group had been able to identify a discernible negative impact on the business climate in Georgia as a result of that law.

Mr. D.A. King also spoke to the bill, noting that the exceptions for other languages to be used as part of health and safety work would give citizens a constitutional right to use other languages in such circumstances.

Sen. Gooch (51st) moved that **SR 675 Do Pass** and Sen. Hill (6th) seconded. The motion passed 13-3. The yea votes were Sen. Hill (4th), Sen. Jackson (24th), Sen. Cowser (46th), Sen. Gooch (51st), Sen. Heath (31st), Sen. Hill (6th), Sen. Hill (32nd), Sen. Ligon, Jr. (3rd), Sen. Millar (40th), Sen. Miller (49th), Sen. Shafer (48th), Sen. Unterman (45th), and Sen. Wilkinson (50th). The nay votes were Sen. Butler (55th), Sen. Henson (41st), and Sen. Tate (38th).

**SR 675 DO PASS**

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

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Bill Jackson (24th), Secretary

/s/ Debra Charnote, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Rules  
February 17, 2016**

A meeting of the Senate Committee on Rules was held on February 17, 2016, in Room 450 of the Capitol. Senate members present included:

Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd), Chairman  
Sen. Jack Hill (4th), Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Bill Jackson (24th), Secretary  
Sen. Gloria Butler (55th)  
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Bill Heath (31st)  
Sen. Steve Henson (41st)  
Sen. Hunter Hill (6th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Fran Millar (40th)  
Sen. Butch Miller (49th)  
Sen. David Shafer (48th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Horacena Tate (38th)  
Sen. Renee Unterman (45th)  
Sen. John Wilkinson (50th), Ex-Officio

**NOTE:** Sen. Judson Hill (32nd) was absent.

Chairman Mullis (53rd) called the meeting to order at 12:44 p.m.

The following legislation was placed on the Rules calendar for the next session day:

[SB 277](#)      [SB 309](#)      [SB 314](#)      [SB 329](#)

Sen. Hill (4th) made a **MOTION** to place the above legislation on the next session day's Rules calendar, and Sen. Unterman (45th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 12:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Bill Jackson (24th), Secretary

/s/ Debra Charnote, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Rules  
February 18, 2016**

A meeting of the Senate Committee on Rules was held on February 18, 2016, in Room 450 of the Capitol. Senate members present included:

Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd), Chairman  
Sen. Jack Hill (4th), Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Gloria Butler (55th)  
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Bill Heath (31st)  
Sen. Steve Henson (41st)  
Sen. Hunter Hill (6th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Judson Hill (32nd)  
Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Fran Millar (40th)  
Sen. Butch Miller (49th)  
Sen. David Shafer (48th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Horacena Tate (38th)  
Sen. Renee Unterman (45th)  
Sen. John Wilkinson (50th), Ex-Officio

**NOTE:** Sen. Bill Jackson (24th), Secretary; was absent.

Chairman Mullis (53rd) called the meeting to order at 12:37 p.m.

The following legislation was placed on the Rules calendar for the next session day:

[SB 370](#)      [HB 757](#)

**NOTE:** Sen. Henson (41st) objected to HB 757 but no motion was made to remove it from the calendar.

Sen. Unterman (45th) made a **MOTION** to place the above legislation on the next session day's Rules calendar, and Sen. Gooch (51st) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 12:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd), Chairman

/s/ Debra Charnote, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Rules  
February 19, 2016**

A meeting of the Senate Rules Committee was held on February 19, 2016, in Room 450 of the Capitol. Senate members present included:

Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd), Chairman  
Sen. Bill Jackson (24th), Secretary  
Sen. Gloria Butler (55th)  
Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Bill Heath (31st)  
Sen. Steve Henson (41st)  
Sen. Hunter Hill (6th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Judson Hill (32nd)  
Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Fran Millar (40th)  
Sen. Butch Miller (49th)  
Sen. David Shafer (48th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Horacena Tate (38th)  
Sen. Renee Unterman (45th)  
Sen. John Wilkinson (50th), Ex-Officio

**NOTE:** Sen. Jack Hill (4th), Vice-Chairman; and Sen. Bill Cowser (46th), Ex-Officio; were absent.

Chairman Mullis (53rd) called the meeting to order at 12:47 p.m.

The following legislation was placed on the Rules calendar for the next session day:

[\*\*SB 271\*\*](#)      [\*\*SB 275\*\*](#)      [\*\*SB 316\*\*](#)      [\*\*SB 337\*\*](#)      [\*\*SB 348\*\*](#)

Sen. Jackson (24th) made a **MOTION** to place the above legislation on the next session day's Rules calendar, and Sen. Unterman (45th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 12:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Bill Jackson (24th) Secretary

/s/ Debra Charnote, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Rules  
February 22, 2016**

A meeting of the Senate Committee on Rules was held on February 22, 2016, in Room 450 of the Capitol. Senate members present included:

Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd), Chairman  
Sen. Jack Hill (4th), Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Bill Jackson (24th), Secretary  
Sen. Gloria Butler (55th)  
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Bill Heath (31st)  
Sen. Steve Henson (41st)  
Sen. Hunter Hill (6th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Judson Hill (32nd)  
Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Fran Millar (40th)  
Sen. Butch Miller (49th)  
Sen. Horacena Tate (38th)  
Sen. Renee Unterman (45th)

**NOTE:** Sen. David Shafer (48th), Ex-Officio, and Sen. John Wilkinson (50th), Ex-Officio, were absent.

Chairman Mullis (53rd) called the meeting to order at 12:42 p.m.

The following legislation was placed on the Rules calendar for the next session day:

[\*\*SB 323\*\*](#)      [\*\*SB 356\*\*](#)      [\*\*SR 954\*\*](#)      [\*\*SR 955\*\*](#)

Sen. Unterman (45th) made a **MOTION** to place the above legislation on the next session day's Rules calendar, and Sen. Jackson (24th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**NOTE:** Sen. Jackson (24th) left at 12:50 p.m.

[\*\*SR 942\*\*](#) (**Sen. Elena Parent, 42nd**) **Senate Study Committee on Townships; create**

Sen. Parent (42nd) presented the resolution. The resolution creates the Senate Study Committee on Townships. The residents of many unincorporated areas of counties in this state desire to exercise some degree of control over development and growth in their area, including establishing a full-featured municipal government to meet their needs. Over the years the General Assembly considered several bills to deal with these issues, including the development of a form of limited municipal government such as township. The

Committee will be composed of five members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate, who will also designate the chairperson.

Sen. Ligon, Jr. (3rd) moved that **SR 942 Do Pass** and Sen. Millar (40th) seconded the motion. The resolution passed unanimously.

**SR 942 DO PASS**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 12:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Bill Jackson (24th), Secretary

/s/ Debra Charnote, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Rules**  
**February 23, 2016**

A meeting of the Senate Committee on Rules was held on February 23, 2016, in Room 450 of the Capitol. Senate members present included:

Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd), Chairman  
Sen. Jack Hill (4th), Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Bill Jackson (24th), Secretary  
Sen. Gloria Butler (55th)  
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Steve Henson (41st)  
Sen. Hunter Hill (6th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Judson Hill (32nd)  
Sen. Fran Millar (40th)  
Sen. Butch Miller (49th)  
Sen. Horacena Tate (38th)  
Sen. Renee Unterman (45th)  
Sen. John Wilkinson (50th), Ex-Officio

**NOTE:** Sen. Bill Heath (31st); Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd), Ex-Officio; and Sen. David Shafer (48th), Ex-Officio; were absent.

Chairman Mullis (53rd) called the meeting to order at 11:59 a.m.

The following legislation was placed on the Rules calendar for the next session day:

[\*\*SB 312\*\*](#)      [\*\*SB 350\*\*](#)      [\*\*SR 558\*\*](#)

Sen. Miller (49th) made a **MOTION** to place the above legislation on the next session day's Rules calendar, and Sen. Jackson (24th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 12:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Bill Jackson (24th), Secretary

/s/ Debra Charnote, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Rules  
February 24, 2016**

A meeting of the Senate Committee on Rules was held on February 24, 2016, in Room 450 of the Capitol. Senate members present included:

Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd), Chairman  
Sen. Jack Hill (4th), Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Bill Jackson (24th), Secretary  
Sen. Gloria Butler (55th)  
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Bill Heath (31st)  
Sen. Hunter Hill (6th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Judson Hill (32nd)  
Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Fran Millar (40th)  
Sen. Butch Miller (49th)  
Sen. David Shafer (48th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Horacena Tate (38th)  
Sen. Renee Unterman (45th)  
Sen. John Wilkinson (50th), Ex-Officio

**NOTE:** Sen. Steve Henson (41st); was absent.

Chairman Mullis (53rd) called the meeting to order at 12:23 p.m.

The following legislation was placed on the Rules calendar for the next session day:

[SB 258](#)      [SB 302](#)      [SB 331](#)      [SB 365](#)      [SB 367](#)      [SB 388](#)  
[SR 604](#)      [SR 842](#)

Sen. Heath (31st) made a **MOTION** to place the above legislation on the next session day's Rules calendar, and Sen. Tate (38th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 12:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Bill Jackson (24th), Secretary

/s/ Debra Charnote, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Rules  
February 25, 2016**

A meeting of the Senate Committee on Rules was held on February 25, 2016, in Room 450 of the Capitol. Senate members present included:

Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd), Chairman  
Sen. Jack Hill (4th), Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Bill Jackson (24th), Secretary  
Sen. Gloria Butler (55th)  
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Bill Heath (31st)  
Sen. Steve Henson (41st)  
Sen. Hunter Hill (6th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Judson Hill (32nd)  
Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Butch Miller (49th)  
Sen. David Shafer (48th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Horacena Tate (38th)  
Sen. Renee Unterman (45th)  
Sen. John Wilkinson (50th), Ex-Officio

**NOTE:** Sen. Fran Millar (40th); was absent.

Chairman Mullis (53rd) called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

The following legislation was placed on the Rules calendar for the next session day:

<a href="#"><u>SB 269</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>SB 274</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>SB 327</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>SB 332</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>SB 333</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>SB 335</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>SB 345</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>SB 347</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>SB 364</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>SB 366</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>SB 369</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>SB 374</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>SB 378</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>SB 379</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>SB 383</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>SB 410</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>SB 420</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>SR 388</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>SR 675</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>SR 809</u></a>				

Sen. Henson (41st) made an **MOTION** to remove to SB 378 from the calendar, and Sen. Tate (38th) seconded the motion. The motion failed 12-3. The yea votes were Sen. Butler (55th), Sen. Henson (41st), and Sen. Tate (38th). The nay votes were Sen. Hill (4th), Sen. Jackson (24th), Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Gooch (51st), Sen. Heath (31st), Sen. Hill (6th), Sen. Hill (32nd), Sen. Ligon, Jr. (3rd), Sen. Miller (49th), Sen. Shafer (48th), Sen. Unterman (45th), and Sen. Wilkinson (50th).

Sen. Unterman (45th) made a **MOTION** to place the above legislation on the next session day's Rules calendar, and Sen. Jackson (24th) seconded the motion. The motion

passed 12-3. The yea votes were Sen. Hill (4th), Sen. Jackson (24th), Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Gooch (51st), Sen. Heath (31st), Sen. Hill (6th), Sen. Hill (32nd), Sen. Ligon, Jr. (3rd), Sen. Miller (49th), Sen. Shafer (48th), Sen. Unterman (45th), and Sen. Wilkinson (50th). The nay votes were Sen. Butler (55th), Sen. Henson (41st), and Sen. Tate (38th).

**SR 1022 (Sen. P. K. Martin, 9th) US Congress; requesting a convention under Article V of the Constitution of the US; set a limit on the number of terms a person can be elected**

Sen. Martin (9th) presented the resolution. The resolution requests that the United States Congress call a convention under Article V of the Constitution of the United States limited to proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to set a limit on the number of terms that a person may be elected as a member of the United States House of Representatives and to set a limit on the number of terms that a person may be elected as a member of the United States Senate; and for other purposes.

Chairman Mullis (53rd) said no vote would be taken at this time.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 1:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Bill Jackson (24th), Secretary

/s/ Debra Charnote, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Rules  
February 26, 2016**

A meeting of the Senate Committee on Rules was held on February 26, 2016, in Room 450 of the Capitol. Senate members present included:

Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd), Chairman  
Sen. Jack Hill (4th), Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Bill Jackson (24th), Secretary  
Sen. Gloria Butler (55th)  
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Bill Heath (31st)  
Sen. Steve Henson (41st)  
Sen. Hunter Hill (6th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Judson Hill (32nd)  
Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Fran Millar (40th)  
Sen. Butch Miller (49th)  
Sen. David Shafer (48th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Horacena Tate (38th)  
Sen. Renee Unterman (45th)  
Sen. John Wilkinson (50th), Ex-Officio

Chairman Mullis (53rd) called the meeting to order at 12:52 p.m.

The following legislation was placed on the Rules calendar for the next session day:

<a href="#"><u>SB 6</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>SB 77</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>SB 206</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>SB 304</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>SB 310</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>SB 328</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>SB 336</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>SB 346</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>SB 352</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>SB 355</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>SB 357</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>SB 375</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>SB 385</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>SB 389</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>SB 402</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>SB 404</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>SB 409</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>SB 416</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>SB 417</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>SR 604</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>SR 756</u></a>			

Sen. Unterman (45th) made a **MOTION** to place the above legislation on the next session day's Rules calendar, and Sen. Gooch (51st) seconded the motion. The motion passed 12-3. The yea votes were Sen. Hill (4th), Sen. Jackson (24th), Sen. Gooch (51st), Sen. Heath (31st), Sen. Hill (6th), Sen. Hill (32nd), Sen. Ligon, Jr. (3rd), Sen. Millar (40th), Sen. Miller (49th), Sen. Shafer (48th), Sen. Unterman (45th), and Sen. Wilkinson (50th). The nay votes were Sen. Butler (55th), Sen. Henson (41st), and Sen. Tate (38th).

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 1:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Bill Jackson (24<sup>th</sup>), Secretary

/s/ Debra Charnote, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Rules  
February 29, 2016**

A meeting of the Senate Committee on Rules was held on February 29, 2016, in Room 450 of the Capitol. Senate members present included:

Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd), Chairman  
Sen. Jack Hill (4th), Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Bill Jackson (24th), Secretary  
Sen. Gloria Butler (55th)  
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Bill Heath (31st)  
Sen. Hunter Hill (6th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Judson Hill (32nd)  
Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Fran Millar (40th)  
Sen. Butch Miller (49th)  
Sen. David Shafer (48th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Renee Unterman (45th)  
Sen. John Wilkinson (50th), Ex-Officio

**NOTE:** Sen. Steve Henson (41st); and Sen. Horacena Tate (38th); were absent.

Chairman Mullis (53rd) called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

The following legislation was placed on the Rules calendar for the next session day:

[HB 172](#)      [HB 370](#)

Sen. Unterman (45th) made a **MOTION** to place the above legislation on the next session day's Rules calendar, and Sen. Ligon, Jr. (3rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 1:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Bill Jackson (24th), Secretary

/s/ Debra Charnote, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Rules**  
**March 2, 2016**

A meeting of the Senate Committee on Rules was held on March 2, 2016, in Room 450 of the Capitol. Senate members present included:

Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd), Chairman  
Sen. Jack Hill (4th), Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Bill Jackson (24th), Secretary  
Sen. Gloria Butler (55th)  
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Hunter Hill (6th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Judson Hill (32nd)  
Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Fran Millar (40th)  
Sen. Butch Miller (49th)  
Sen. David Shafer (48th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Horacena Tate (38th)  
Sen. Renee Unterman (45th)  
Sen. John Wilkinson (50th), Ex-Officio

**NOTE:** Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Ex-Officio; Sen. Bill Heath (31st); and Sen. Steve Henson (41st); were absent.

Chairman Mullis (53rd) called the meeting to order at 12:42 p.m.

The Chairman announced there would be no legislation placed on the Rules calendar for the next session day.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 12:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Bill Jackson (24th), Secretary

/s/ Debra Charnote, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Rules**  
**March 7, 2016**

A meeting of the Senate Committee on Rules was held on March 7, 2016, in Room 450 of the Capitol. Senate members present included:

Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd), Chairman  
Sen. Bill Jackson (24th), Secretary  
Sen. Gloria Butler (55th)  
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Bill Heath (31st)  
Sen. Hunter Hill (6th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Judson Hill (32nd)  
Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Fran Millar (40th)  
Sen. Butch Miller (49th)  
Sen. David Shafer (48th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Horacena Tate (38th)  
Sen. Renee Unterman (45th)  
Sen. John Wilkinson (50th), Ex-Officio

**NOTE:** Sen. Jack Hill (4th), Vice-Chairman; and Sen. Steve Henson (41st); were absent.

Chairman Mullis (53rd) called the meeting to order at 11:31 a.m.

The following legislation was placed on the Rules calendar for the next session day:

[HB 697](#)      [HB 840](#)

Sen. Gooch (51st) made a **MOTION** to place the above legislation on the next session day's Rules calendar, and Sen. Unterman (45th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 11:36 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Bill Jackson (24th), Secretary

/s/ Debra Charnote, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Rules**  
**March 8, 2016**

A meeting of the Senate Committee on Rules was held on March 8, 2016, in Room 450 of the Capitol. Senate members present included:

Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd), Chairman  
Sen. Jack Hill (4th), Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Bill Jackson (24th), Secretary  
Sen. Gloria Butler (55th)  
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Bill Heath (31st)  
Sen. Hunter Hill (6th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Judson Hill (32nd)  
Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Fran Millar (40th)  
Sen. Butch Miller (49th)  
Sen. David Shafer (48th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Horacena Tate (38th)  
Sen. John Wilkinson (50th), Ex-Officio

**NOTE:** Sen. Steve Henson (41st) and Sen. Renee Unterman (45th); were absent.

Chairman Mullis (53rd) called the meeting to order at 11:54 a.m.

The following legislation was placed on the Rules calendar for the next session day:

[HB 751](#)      [HB 844](#)

**NOTE:** Sen. Gooch (51st) left at 12:00 p.m.

Sen. Heath (31st) made a **MOTION** to place the above legislation on the next session day's Rules calendar, and Sen. Jackson (24th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 12:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Bill Jackson (24th), Secretary

/s/ Debra Charnote, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Rules**  
**March 10, 2016**

A meeting of the Senate Committee on Rules was held on March 10, 2016, in Room 450 of the Capitol. Senate members present included:

Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd), Chairman  
Sen. Jack Hill (4th), Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Bill Jackson (24th), Secretary  
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Bill Heath (31st)  
Sen. Steve Henson (41st)  
Sen. Judson Hill (32nd)  
Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Fran Millar (40th)  
Sen. Butch Miller (49th)  
Sen. David Shafer (48th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Renee Unterman (45th)  
Sen. John Wilkinson (50th), Ex-Officio

**NOTE:** Sen. Gloria Butler (55th); Sen. Hunter Hill (6th), Ex-Officio; and Sen. Horacena Tate (38th); were absent.

Chairman Mullis (53rd) called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

The following legislation was placed on the Rules calendar for the next session day:

[HB 34](#)      [HB 52](#)      [HB 767](#)      [HB 859](#)      [HB 886](#)

Sen. Unterman (45th) made a **MOTION** to place the above legislation on the next session day's Rules calendar, and Sen. Jackson (24th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**NOTE:** Sen. Unterman (45th), Sen. Hill (32nd), and Sen. Gooch (51st) left at 1:10 p.m.

[SR 1084](#) (Sen. JaNice VanNess, 43rd) **Vacant Structures; create Senate Study Committee**

Sen. VanNess (43rd) presented the resolution. The resolution addresses the issue of dwellings or other buildings or structures in this state which are unfit for human habitation, or for commercial, industrial, or business occupancy or use, and not in compliance with applicable state minimum standard codes. Where there is in existence a condition or use of real estate which renders adjacent real estate unsafe or inimical to safe human habitation, such use is dangerous and injurious to the health, safety, and welfare of the people of this state and a public necessity exists for the repair of such condition or

the cessation of such use. These vacant, dilapidated dwellings, buildings, or structures are where drug crimes are being committed and private property constituting an endangerment to the public health or safety as a result of unsanitary or unsafe conditions to those persons residing or working in the vicinity of the property.

The committee will be composed of the following seven members:

- The chair of the Senate Economic Development and Tourism Committee;
- The chair of the Senate State and Local Governmental Operations Committee; and
- One member appointed by the President of the Senate from each of the following:
  - Georgia Association of Realtors;
  - Georgia Municipal Association;
  - Association County Commissioners of Georgia;
  - Council for Quality Growth; and
  - Georgia Bankers Association.

Sen. Miller (49th) moved **SR 1084 Do Pass** and Sen. Hill (6th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**SR 1084 DO PASS**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 1:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Bill Jackson (24th), Secretary

/s/ Debra Charnote, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Rules**  
**March 11, 2016**

A meeting of the Senate Committee on Rules was held on March 11, 2016, in Room 450 of the Capitol. Senate members present included:

Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd), Chairman  
Sen. Jack Hill (4th), Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Bill Jackson (24th), Secretary  
Sen. Gloria Butler (55th)  
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Bill Heath (31st)  
Sen. Steve Henson (41st)  
Sen. Hunter Hill (6th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Judson Hill (32nd)  
Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Fran Millar (40th)  
Sen. Butch Miller (49th)  
Sen. David Shafer (48th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Horacena Tate (38th)  
Sen. Renee Unterman (45th)  
Sen. John Wilkinson (50th), Ex-Officio

Chairman Mullis (53rd) called the meeting to order at 2:32 p.m.

The following legislation was placed on the Rules calendar for the next session day:

[HB 421](#)      [HB 508](#)      [HB 509](#)      [HB 555](#)      [HB 635](#)      [HB 676](#)  
[HB 725](#)      [HB 747](#)      [HB 768](#)      [HB 871](#)      [HB 887](#)      [HB 965](#)

Sen. Unterman (45th) made a **MOTION** to place the above legislation on the next session day's Rules calendar, and Sen. Henson (41st) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 3:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Bill Jackson (24th), Secretary

/s/ Debra Charnote, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Rules  
March 14, 2016**

A meeting of the Senate Committee on Rules was held on March 14, 2016, in Room 450 of the Capitol. Senate members present included:

Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd), Chairman  
Sen. Jack Hill (4th), Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Bill Jackson (24th), Secretary  
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Bill Heath (31st)  
Sen. Steve Henson (41st)  
Sen. Judson Hill (32nd)  
Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Fran Millar (40th)  
Sen. Butch Miller (49th)  
Sen. David Shafer (48th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Horacena Tate (38th)  
Sen. Renee Unterman (45th)  
Sen. John Wilkinson (50th), Ex-Officio

**NOTE:** Sen. Gloria Butler (55th); and Sen. Hunter Hill (6th), Ex-Officio; were absent.

Chairman Mullis (53rd) called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m.

The following legislation was placed on the Rules calendar for the next session day:

[HB 54](#)      [HB 219](#)      [HB 588](#)      [HB 649](#)      [HB 727](#)  
[HB 739](#)      [HB 775](#)      [HB 777](#)      [HB 811](#)      [HB 815](#)  
[HB 884](#)      [HB 951](#)      [HB 979](#)      [HB 1036](#)

Sen. Unterman (45th) made a **MOTION** to place the above legislation on the next session day's Rules calendar, and Sen. Cowsert (46th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**NOTE:** Sen. Heath (31st), Sen. Hill (32nd), Sen. Ligon, Jr. (3rd), Sen. Millar (40th), and Sen. Wilkinson (50th) left at 1:30 p.m.

**SR 1159 (Sen. Valencia Seay, 34th) Senate Camden County Spaceport Study Committee; create**

Sen. Mullis (53rd) presented the resolution. The resolution concerns a rural tract next to the Atlantic Ocean that is suitable for a rocket launching, and both Camden County and

the state of Georgia would benefit from the potential \$300 billion spaceport industry and the development of a successful spaceport. The Committee shall be composed of four members of the Senate, including:

- Two officials of Camden County who have knowledge and experience related to the regulation of spaceports;
- Two members of the business community with experience related to the operation of spaceports; and
- A faculty member from the Georgia Institute of Technology's Guggenheim School.

Sen. Unterman (45th) moved **SR 1159 Do Pass** and Sen. Shafer (48th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**SR 1159 DO PASS**

**SR 1131 (Sen. Brandon Beach, 21st) Senate Affordability of Death Study Committee; create**

Sen. Mullis (53rd) presented the resolution. The resolution creates the Senate Affordability of Death Study Committee. The loss of a loved one is difficult, especially with the rising costs of funerals, burial sites, cemetery plots, and vaults. Laws concerning cemeteries and crematories can be seen as conflicting and confusing to some consumers. In order to ensure and protect the best interests of the citizens of Georgia, the study committee shall study current laws with the intention to decrease the potential for monopolistic practices while increasing the opportunities for competition. The committee shall be composed of five members of the Senate.

Sen. Unterman (45th) moved **SR 1131 Do Pass** and Sen. Shafer (48th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**SR 1131 DO PASS**

**SR 1132 (Sen. Brandon Beach, 21st) Venture Capital Investments; Senate Study Committee; create**

Sen. Mullis (53rd) presented the resolution. The resolution creates the Senate Study Committee on Venture Capital Investments in Georgia. By increasing the allocation of funds to the Invest Georgia Program, the state may grow Georgia-based companies and experience economic prosperity. In order to identify the benefits, detriments, and feasibility of increased allocation of funds to the program, the state shall gather input from both the legislative and executive branches and community leaders.

The committee shall be composed of seven members: three from the Senate and additional non-legislative members from the following:

- An employee of the Georgia Department of Economic Development;
- An employee of the Atlanta Metro Chamber of Commerce;

- A representative from the Georgia Department of Revenue or an advisory group thereto;
- A general partner, or representative if the general partner is a corporate entity, from a Georgia-based venture capital fund;
- A general partner, or representative if the general partner is a corporate entity, from a Georgia-based private equity fund;
- A representative from the Advanced Technology Development Centers in Georgia;
- A representative from the University System of Georgia; and
- Any other at the discretion of the President of the Senate.

Sen. Unterman (45th) moved **SR 1132 Do Pass** and Sen. Shafer (48th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**SR 1132 DO PASS**

**SR 1166 (Sen. Marty Harbin, 16th) Venture Capital Investments; Senate Study Committee; create**

Sen. Mullis (53rd) presented the resolution. The resolution creates the Senate State Sponsored Self-insured Group Health Insurance Plan Study Committee. One of the greatest challenges facing small businesses in Georgia is providing health insurance to employees. This committee shall study how the state may assist in creating a state sponsored self-insured group health insurance plan that will benefit small business and their employees. The committee shall be composed of seven members of the Senate.

Sen. Unterman (45th) moved **SR 1166 Do Pass** and Sen. Shafer (48th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**SR 1166 DO PASS**

**SR 1144 (Sen. Butch Miller, 49th) US Senate; encouraged to delay action on a new Associate Justice of the US Supreme Court after 2016 presidential election**

Sen. Mullis (53rd) presented the resolution. The resolution encourages the United States Senate to delay action on a new Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court until after the 2016 presidential election. The country is in the midst of serious political division and a contentious presidential election, and by waiting for the next president to be elected, a clearer and complete picture will emerge of the desired direction in which the people want the country to move forward.

Sen. Unterman (45th) moved **SR 1144 Do Pass** and Sen. Shafer (48th) seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-2. The yea votes were Sen. Hill (4th), Sen. Jackson (24th), Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Gooch (51st), Sen. Miller (49th), Sen. Shafer (48th), and Sen. Unterman (45th). The nay votes were Sen. Henson (41st) and Sen. Tate (38th).

**SR 1144 DO PASS**

**SR 1154 (Sen. Butch Miller, 49th) Senate Emergency Cardiac Care Centers Study Committee; create**

Sen. Mullis (53rd) presented the resolution. The resolution creates the Senate Emergency Cardiac Care Centers Study Committee. While great improvements have been made in survivability, continued focus on cardiac care is essential. Several states have implemented similar programs, while Georgia has already implemented a similar program for Stroke Centers to improve survivability. Thus, it is necessary to study the creation of Emergency Cardiac Care Centers to increase the survivability of a cardiac event.

The committee shall be composed of five members, including:

- The chairperson of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee;
- The commissioner of public health, or his or her designee;
- A representative from the American Heart Association;
- A qualified medical doctor with a specialty in cardiology; and
- An experienced paramedic, or similarly qualified emergency medical services personnel.

Sen. Unterman (45th) moved **SR 1154 Do Pass** and Sen. Shafer (48th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**SR 1154 DO PASS**

**SR 1137** (Sen. Butch Miller, 49th) **Grandparents Raising Grandchildren and Kinship Care; create Senate Study Committee**

Sen. Mullis (53rd) presented the resolution. The resolution creates the Senate Study Committee on Grandparents Raising Grandchildren and Kinship Care. Grandparents and other family members that act as primary caregivers are often faced with a lack of access to services, financial support, and difficulty in making medical and academic decisions for children in their care. In order to study the issues facing grandparents and other family members as primary guardians, a comprehensive review of government policies and services, proposals from relevant interest groups and advocacy organizations in the state, and best practices from other states is needed. The committee shall be composed of five members of the Senate including the Minority Leader and at least two other members from the minority party.

Sen. Unterman (45th) moved **SR 1137 Do Pass** and Sen. Shafer (48th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**SR 1137 DO PASS**

**SR 1165** (Sen. Butch Miller, 49th) **Senate Opioid Abuse Study Committee; create**

Sen. Mullis (53rd) presented the resolution. The resolution creates the Senate Opioid Abuse Study Committee. In 2013, more than 8,200 people died from heroin-related overdoses, and heroin use in adults between the ages of 18 and 25 has doubled in the last ten years. This committee will study naloxone, an opioid antagonist, and its ability to stop an opioid overdose in a patient long enough to get the patient to a hospital. While other states make naloxone available for purchase over the counter, the State of Georgia has

taken steps to increase access to the medication. Because of the rise in opioid use across the country, the State of Georgia finds it necessary to investigate what actions need to be taken to combat these trends.

The committee shall be composed of seven members, including:

- Two members of the Senate, including the chairperson of the Senate Health and Human Service Committee;
- The commissioner of public health, or his or her designee;
- The Director of the Georgia Drugs and Narcotics Agency, or his or her designee;
- A registered pharmacist;
- A qualified medical doctor with a specialty in opioid addiction or abuse; and
- A citizen with personal experience with opioid overdose.

Sen. Unterman (45th) moved **SR 1165 Do Pass** and Sen. Shafer (48th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **SR 1165 DO PASS**

**SR 1171** (Sen. Josh McKoon, 29th) **Senate Judicial Qualifications Commission Study Committee; create**

Sen. Mullis (53rd) presented the resolution. The resolution creates the Senate Judicial Qualifications Commission Study Committee. The Judicial Qualifications Commission was created by constitutional amendment in 1972 to conduct investigations with respect to complaints of ethical misconduct by Georgia judges. The Commission is also authorized to issue advisory opinions regarding appropriate judicial conduct.

The resolution states that a review of the policies and procedures that the Judicial Qualifications Commission employs to investigate alleged ethical misconduct and a review of the process of selection of Judicial Qualification Members is needed. The Study Committee shall also study ways to improve the accountability of the Judicial Qualifications Commons and identify additional resources to assist the Commission in its mission in order to improve public trust in the judicial system.

The committee shall be composed of five members of the Senate, so long as one of those members is the chairperson of the Senate Judiciary Committee, who shall also serve as the chairperson of this committee.

Sen. Unterman (45th) moved **SR 1171 Do Pass** and Sen. Shafer (48th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **SR 1171 DO PASS**

**SR 1170** (Sen. Josh McKoon, 29th) **Senate Divorce Proceedings Study Committee; create**

Sen. Mullis (53rd) presented the resolution. The resolution creates the Senate Divorce Proceedings Study Committee. The committee shall study ways to reduce the complexity,

cost, and litigious nature of divorce cases, in order to reduce the cost of divorce and allow parties to better afford attorneys or obtain unbundled divorce-related legal services. The committee shall decide whether or not divorce-specific changes to the Civil Practice Act may be necessary to simplify proceedings.

The committee shall be composed of five members of the Senate, so long as one such member shall be the chairperson of the Senate Judiciary Committee who shall also serve as the chairperson of the study committee.

Sen. Unterman (45th) moved **SR 1170 Do Pass** and Sen. Shafer (48th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**SR 1170 DO PASS**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 1:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Bill Jackson (24th), Secretary

/s/ Debra Charnote, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Rules**  
**March 15, 2016**

A meeting of the Senate Committee on Rules was held on March 15, 2016, in Room 450 of the Capitol. Senate members present included:

Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd), Chairman  
Sen. Jack Hill (4th), Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Bill Jackson (24th), Secretary  
Sen. Gloria Butler (55th)  
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Bill Heath (31st)  
Sen. Steve Henson (41st)  
Sen. Hunter Hill (6th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Judson Hill (32nd)  
Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Fran Millar (40th)  
Sen. Butch Miller (49th)  
Sen. David Shafer (48th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Horacena Tate (38th)  
Sen. Renee Unterman (45th)  
Sen. John Wilkinson (50th), Ex-Officio

Chairman Mullis (53rd) called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Chairman Mullis added the following legislation to the Senate consent calendars:

Expressing the Will of the Senate Joint resolutions:

[SR 730](#)

Joint Commemorative resolutions:

[SR 863](#)      [SR 892](#)      [SR 956](#)      [SR 978](#)

Joint Study Committee resolutions:

[SR 876](#)      [SR 883](#)      [SR 1027](#)      [SR 1029](#)      [SR 1038](#)

The following legislation was placed on the Rules calendar for the next session day:

[HB 54](#)      [HB 65](#)      [HB 73](#)      [HB 100](#)      [HB 229](#)  
[HB 238](#)      [HB 513](#)      [HB 579](#)      [HB 691](#)      [HB 726](#)

[HB 736](#)      [HB 737](#)      [HB 765](#)      [HB 770](#)      [HB 779](#)  
[HB 784](#)      [HB 800](#)      [HB 801](#)      [HB 804](#)      [HB 825](#)  
[HB 831](#)      [HB 851](#)      [HB 876](#)      [HB 884](#)      [HB 899](#)  
[HB 902](#)      [HB 910](#)      [HB 920](#)      [HB 952](#)      [HB 962](#)  
[HB 991](#)      [HB 1028](#)      [HB 1037](#)      [HB 1058](#)      [HR 1312](#)

Sen. Heath (31st) made a **MOTION** to place the above legislation on the next session day's Rules calendar, and Sen. Unterman (45th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**NOTE:** Sen. Heath (31st) left at 5:03 p.m.

**SR 1098 (Sen. JaNice VanNess, 43rd) Senate Crime Study Committee; create**

Sen. VanNess (43rd) presented the resolution. The resolution creates the Senate Crime Study Committee. There are pockets of activity in counties related to home invasions, rapes, murders, gang activities, and other crimes against person and property. Criminal activity has an effect on schools, economic development, and other community interests. Development and implementation of crime control policies and strategies can greatly benefit communities. This committee will be composed of five members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate. The President will designate a member of the committee as chairperson. The committee stands abolished on December 1, 2016.

Sen. Unterman (45th) moved **SR 1098 Do Pass** and Sen. Gooch (51st) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**SR 1098 DO PASS**

**SR 1175 (Sen. Renee Unterman, 45th) Georgia Abuser Registry; Senate Study Committee; create**

Sen. Unterman (45th) presented the resolution. The resolution creates the Senate Georgia Abuser Registry Study Committee. The population of Georgia ages 65 and older will increase 143 percent over the next 30 years. Abuse, neglect, and exploitation are increasing threats to the vulnerable senior and disabled population. Senate Bill 138, which was passed in 2015, and Section 11 of such bill, created a Child Abuse Registry in Georgia to list substantiated cases and convicted cases of child abuse to assist abuse investigators and to provide information to the state agencies that license care providers. To create an expansive, comprehensive state-wide abuser registry will require the collaboration and cooperation of several state agencies that investigate crimes of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of vulnerable populations; a reliable integrated data base; a department to maintain the registry; and the use of the court system to allow for proper appeals for those placed on the abuser registry.

Therefore, this resolution creates the Senate Georgia Abuser Registry Study Committee, to be composed of five members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate, who will also designate a member of the Committee as chairperson. The Committee stands abolished on December 1, 2016.

Sen. Ligon, Jr. (3rd) moved **SR 1175 Do Pass** and Sen. Gooch (51st) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**SR 1175 DO PASS**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 5:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Bill Jackson (24th), Secretary

/s/ Debra Charnote, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Rules**  
**March 21, 2016**

A meeting of the Senate Committee on Rules was held on March 21, 2016, in Room 450 of the Capitol. Senate members present included:

Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd), Chairman  
Sen. Jack Hill (4th), Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Bill Jackson (24th), Secretary  
Sen. Gloria Butler (55th)  
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Bill Heath (31st)  
Sen. Steve Henson (41st)  
Sen. Hunter Hill (6th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Judson Hill (32nd)  
Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Fran Millar (40th)  
Sen. Butch Miller (49th)  
Sen. David Shafer (48th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Horacena Tate (38th)  
Sen. Renee Unterman (45th)  
Sen. John Wilkinson (50th), Ex-Officio

Chairman Mullis (53rd) called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Chairman Mullis added the following legislation to the Senate consent calendars:

Expressing the Will of the Senate resolutions:

[SR 74](#)      [SR 177](#)      [SR 723](#)      [SR 988](#)      [SR 1018](#)

Study Committee resolutions:

[SR 360](#)      [SR 412](#)      [SR 467](#)      [SR 974](#)      [SR 1001](#)

[SR 1032](#)      [SR 1056](#)      [SR 1059](#)      [SR 1085](#)      [SR 1091](#)

[SR 1098](#)      [SR 1132](#)      [SR 1154](#)      [SR 1159](#)      [SR 1165](#)

[SR 1166](#)      [SR 1171](#)

The following legislation was placed on the Rules calendar for the next session day:

<a href="#"><u>HB 21</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>HB 51</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>HB 59</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>HB 93</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>HB 166</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>HB 193</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>HB 205</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>HB 212</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>HB 216</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>HB 304</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>HB 364</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>HB 402</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>HB 408</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>HB 514</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>HB 547</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>HB 605</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>HB 614</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>HB 654</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>HB 659</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>HB 690</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>HB 738</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>HB 745</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>HB 759</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>HB 763</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>HB 764</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>HB 769</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>HB 772</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>HB 773</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>HB 783</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>HB 792</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>HB 798</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>HB 802</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>HB 806</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>HB 808</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>HB 818</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>HB 821</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>HB 822</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>HB 838</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>HB 853</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>HB 856</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>HB 862</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>HB 866</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>HB 869</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>HB 874</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>HB 879</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>HB 882</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>HB 883</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>HB 885</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>HB 889</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>HB 895</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>HB 897</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>HB 900</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>HB 904</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>HB 905</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>HB 911</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>HB 916</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>HB 922</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>HB 926</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>HB 927</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>HB 935</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>HB 936</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>HB 937</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>HB 941</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>HB 943</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>HB 944</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>HB 949</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>HB 954</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>HB 957</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>HB 959</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>HB 960</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>HB 976</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>HB 980</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>HB 987</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>HB 1004</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>HB 1014</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>HB 1025</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>HB 1030</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>HB 1043</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>HB 1060</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>HB 1070</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>HB 1072</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>HB 1073</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>HB 1085</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>HR 1052</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>HR 1113</u></a>

Sen. Unterman (45th) made a **MOTION** to place the above legislation on the next session day's Rules calendar, and Sen. Gooch (51st) seconded the motion. The motion passed 13-3. The yea votes were Sen. Hill (4th), Sen. Jackson (24th), Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Gooch (51st), Sen. Heath (31st), Sen. Hill (6th), Sen. Hill (32nd), Sen. Ligon, Jr. (3rd), Sen. Millar (40th), Sen. Miller (49th), Sen. Shafer (48th), Sen. Unterman (45th), and Sen. Wilkinson (50th). The nay votes were Sen. Butler (55th), Sen. Henson (41st), and Sen. Tate (38th).

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Bill Jackson (24th), Secretary

/s/ Debra Charnote, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Rules**  
**March 22, 2016**

A meeting of the Senate Committee on Rules was held on March 22, 2016, in Room 450 of the Capitol. Senate members present included:

Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd), Chairman  
Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Judson Hill (32nd)  
Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Butch Miller (49th)  
Sen. David Shafer (48th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Renee Unterman (45th)  
Sen. John Wilkinson (50th), Ex-Officio

**NOTE:** Sen. Jack Hill (4th), Vice-Chairman; Sen. Bill Jackson (24th), Secretary; Sen. Gloria Butler (55th); Sen. Bill Heath (31st); Sen. Steve Henson (41st); Sen. Hunter Hill (6th), Ex-Officio; Sen. Fran Millar (40th); and Sen. Horacena Tate (38th); were absent.

Chairman Mullis (53rd) called the meeting to order at 8:45 p.m.

The following legislation was placed on the Supplemental Rules calendar for the 39th session day:

**[HR 1113](#)**

Sen. Shafer (48th) made a **MOTION** to place the above legislation on the 39th session day's Supplemental Rules calendar, and Sen. Unterman (45th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 8:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd), Chairman

/s/ Debra Charnote, Recording Secretary

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**SENATOR JEFF MULLIS**

**COMMITTEES:**

Rules, Chairman  
Appropriations – Subcommittee Chairman,  
Economic Development  
Regulated Industries  
Economic Development and Tourism

**SPECIAL APPOINTMENTS:**

Georgia Music Hall of Fame, Chairman  
Sportsman's Caucus, Chairman Emeritus

March 22, 2016

APR 5 PM 3:13

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

Dear Mr. Cook:

Along with the minutes of the **Senate Rules Committee**, I am returning the following Bills & Resolutions:

SB 256	SR 163	SR 451	SR 683	SR 716	SR 1022
SB 284	SR 383	SR 610	SR 715	SR 717	SR 1227

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Charnote  
Recording Secretary  
Senate Rules Committee