

**MEMBERS OF SENATE COMMITTEE ON SPECIAL JUDICIARY
2016 SESSION**

Sen. Curt Thompson, Chairman
District 5
121-H State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334

Sen. Emanuel Jones, Vice-Chairman
District 10
420-D State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334

Sen. Gail Davenport, Secretary
District 44
121-C State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334

Sen. Donzella James
District 35
121-D State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334

Sen. Elena Parent
District 42
321-B CLOB
Atlanta, GA 30334

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON SPECIAL JUDICIARY
February 24, 2016

The Senate Committee on Special Judiciary held its first meeting of the 2016 Legislative Session on Wednesday, February 24, 2016 in Room 125 of the Capitol.

Members present at the meeting were as follows:

Sen. Curt Thompson (5th), Chairman
Sen. Gail Davenport (44th), Secretary
Sen. Donzella James (35th)
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd)

NOTE: Sen. Emanuel Jones (10th), Vice-Chairman, was absent.

Chairman Thompson (5th) called the meeting to order at 4:16 p.m., welcomed Senators and presented Committee Rules to the members.

Sen. Davenport (44th) made a motion to adopt the Committee Rules and Sen. James (35th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. A copy of the Rules is attached.

Chairman Thompson (5th) called on Rep. Caldwell (131st) to present HB 738

HB 738 (Rep. Johnnie Caldwell, Jr., 131st) Local government; county law libraries; revise uses of excess funds

Debra Nesbit, from Association County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG), spoke in favor of the bill.

Sen. Parent (42nd) made a motion **Do Pass** and Sen. James (35th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

HB 738 DO PASS.

HB 871 (Rep. Robert Dickey, 140th) "Georgia Lemon Law"; consumer fees forwarded to the Department of Law for deposit in the new motor vehicle arbitration account; require

Rep. Dickey (140th) presented HB 871 to the Committee.

Sen. Parent (42nd) and Sen. James (35th) asked questions.

Sen. Parent (42nd) made a motion **Do Pass** and Sen. Davenport (44th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

HB 871 DO PASS.

SB 391 (Sen. Hunter Hill, 6th) "Fair Employment Practices Act of 1978"; expand the definition of discrimination; provisions

Sen. Hill (6th) presented SB 391 to the Committee.

Jeff Graham from Georgia Equality spoke in opposition to the bill in its current form. Connie Galloway spoke in opposition to the bill in its current form.

Sen. Thompson (5th), Sen. Parent (42nd), Sen. James (35th), and Sen. Davenport (44th) asked questions.

Sen. Parent (42nd) offered amendments to the bill and Sen. James seconded the motion to create a committee substitute. The Committee agreed to **table** the bill.

With no further business, Chairman Thompson (5th) adjourned the meeting at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Gail Davenport (44th), Secretary

/s/ Javier A. Brown, Recording Secretary

RULES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON SPECIAL JUDICIARY 2015-2016

Each member of the Committee should be mindful of the Senate Rules, especially regarding attendance.

1. A Quorum of the Committee shall be 3 members.
2. The Chairman shall determine which bills and resolutions are to be considered and the order in which said measures are considered.
3. 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 a time as shall be designated by the Chairman.
4. The Committee shall convene, recess, and adjourn upon the order of the Chairman.
5. A bill or resolution will be considered only after presentation by its principal author or other legislator whose name appears first or second on the list of authors or co-sponsors, unless the author or co-sponsor has made other arrangements with the Chairman.
6. No member of the Committee shall be allowed to vote by proxy.
7. Members may not abstain from voting unless the member or any member of the Senator's immediate family has a direct pecuniary interest in the result of such vote, which interest is distinct, unique, or peculiar to the Senator or the Senator's immediate family.
8. Any member of the Committee who disagrees 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.

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON SPECIAL JUDICIARY
February 25, 2016

The Senate Committee on Special Judiciary held its second meeting of the 2016 Legislative Session on Thursday, February 25, 2016 in Room 328 of the CLOB. Members present at the meeting were as follows:

Sen. Curt Thompson (5th), Chairman
Sen. Donzella James (35th)
Sen. Ed Harbison (15th), Ex-Officio

NOTE: Sen. Emanuel Jones (10th), Vice-Chairman, Sen. Gail Davenport (44th), Secretary, and Sen. Elena Parent (42nd) were absent.

NOTE: Sen. Ed Harbison (15th) was appointed Ex-Officio for this meeting to make quorum. The letter appointing him is attached.

Chairman Thompson (5th) called the meeting to order at 9:21 a.m. and welcomed Senators.

[SB 391](#) (Sen. Hunter Hill, 6th) “Fair Employment Practices Act of 1978”; expand the definition of discrimination; provisions

Sen. Harbison (15th) presented SB 391.

Sen. James (35th) made a motion **Do Pass By Substitute** and Sen. Harbison (15th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

SB 391 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE LC 41 0769S

With no further business, Chairman Thompson (5th) adjourned the meeting at 9:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Curt Thompson (5th), Chairman

/s/ Javier A. Brown, Recording Secretary



OFFICE OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

240 STATE CAPITOL
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334

CASEY CAGLE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

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

Dear David,

In accordance with the Senate Rules, the Senate Committee on Assignments hereby appoints Senator Ed Harbison to serve as Ex-Officio for the Senate Special Judiciary Committee meeting on February 25, 2016. This appointment shall expire upon adjournment of the committee meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Casey Cagle".

Lt. Governor Casey Cagle
President of the Senate

CC/tes

Copy to:

Legislative Fiscal Officer
Committee Chair
Appointee

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON SPECIAL JUDICIARY
March 11, 2016

The Senate Committee on Special Judiciary held its third meeting of the 2016 Legislative Session on Wednesday, March 11, 2016 in Room 125 of the Capitol.

Members present at the meeting were as follows:

Sen. Curt Thompson (5th), Chairman
Sen. Gail Davenport (44th), Secretary
Sen. Donzella James (35th)

NOTE: Sen. Emanuel Jones (10th), Vice-Chairman, and Sen. Elena Parent (42nd) were absent.

Chairman Thompson (5th) called the meeting to order at 11:17 a.m. and welcomed Senators.

[HB 804](#) (Rep. Ronnie Mabra, 63rd) Superior courts; fifth judge of the Clayton Judicial Circuit; provide

Rep. Mabra (63rd) presented the bill to the Committee.

Judge Collier, Chief Judge of the Clayton Superior Court Circuit spoke in favor of the bill.

Sen. Valencia Seay (34th) spoke in favor of the bill.

Sen. Davenport (44th) moved HB 804 **Do Pass by Substitute** and Sen. James (35th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

HB 804 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE LC 36 3056S

[HB 486](#) (Rep. Bert Reeves, 34th) Professional forestry; disclosure of AIDS confidential information; conform provisions

Rep. Reeves (34th) presented HB 486. Sen. Thompson (5th) and Sen. James (35th) asked questions.

Sen James (35th) moved that HB 486 **Do Pass** and Sen. Davenport 44th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

HB 486 DO PASS

[HB 851](#) (Rep. Alex Atwood, 179th) Local government; annual audit of financial affairs, books, and records of boards of trustees of county law libraries; require

Rep Atwood (179th) presented HB 851.

Sen. Thompson (5th) and Sen. James (35th) asked questions.

Ms. Debra Nesbit from the Association County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG) spoke in favor of the bill.

Sen. Davenport (44th) moved HB 851 **Do Pass** and Sen. James (35th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

HB 851 DO PASS

HB 1073 (Rep. Brian Strickland, 111th) Juvenile Code; procedure in juvenile courts; change provisions

Rep. Strickland (111th) presented HB 1073.

Darice Good of the Georgia Parent Attorneys Advocacy Committee spoke in favor of changes to the bill. Tom Worth from the State Bar Association suggested language to amend the bill.

Sen. Thompson (5th) moved to adopt an amendment. Sen James (35th) seconded the motion and it was adopted unanimously.

Sen. Davenport (44th) moved HB 1073 **Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. James (35th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

HB 1073 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE LC 41 0801S

HB 957 (Rep. Stacey Abrams, 89th) Probate courts; judges and clerks publicly post notice of the availability of the affidavit of indigence

Rep. Abrams (89th) presented HB 957 to the Committee.

Polly McKinney from Voices for Georgia's Children spoke in favor of the bill.

Sen. James (35th) moved HB 957 **Do Pass** and Sen. Davenport (44th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

HB 957 DO PASS

HB 381 (Rep. Andrew Welch, 110th) Revised Georgia Law on Notarial Acts of 2015

Rep. Welch (110th) presented HB 381 to the Committee.

Sheila Studdard from the Fayette County Superior Court Clerk's office spoke in favor of the bill.

Sen. Thompson (5th), Sen. Davenport (44th), and Sen. James (35th) asked questions.

Sen. Davenport (44th) moved HB 381 **Do Pass by Substitute** and Sen. James (35th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

HB 381 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE LC 41 0802ERS

HB 1004 (Rep. Rick Jasperse, 11th) Courts; maps, plats, and plans to be filed for record; provide requirements

Rep. Jasperse (11th) presented HB 1004 to the Committee.

Sen. Davenport (44th) asked a question.

Sen. Davenport (44th) moved HB 1004 **Do Pass by Substitute** and Sen. James (35th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

HB 1004 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE LC 36 3608S

With no further business, Chairman Thompson (5th) adjourned the meeting at 12:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Gail Davenport (44th), Secretary

/s/ Javier A. Brown, Recording Secretary

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON SPECIAL JUDICIARY
March 15, 2016

The Senate Committee on Special Judiciary held its fourth meeting of the 2016 Legislative Session on Wednesday, March 15, 2016 in Room 125 of the Capitol. Members present at the meeting were as follows:

Sen. Curt Thompson (5th), Chairman
Sen. Gail Davenport (44th), Secretary
Sen. Donzella James (35th)

NOTE: Sen. Emanuel Jones (10th), Vice-Chairman, and Sen. Elena Parent (42nd) were absent.

Chairman Thompson (5th) called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed Senators.

Chairman Thompson (5th) called on Rep. Mandi Ballinger (23rd) to present HB 171.

HB 171 (Rep. Dustin Hightower, 68th) Laws and statutes; revise provisions relating to effect and enforcement of foreign laws

Chairman Thompson (5th) asked a question.

Sen. James (35th) moved HB 171 **Do Pass** and Sen. Davenport (44th) seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

HB 171 DO PASS

With no further business, Chairman Thompson (5th) adjourned the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Gail Davenport (44th), Secretary

/s/ Javier A. Brown, Recording Secretary