

**The Senate Committee on Agriculture & Consumer Affairs
Roster 2017**

Sen. John Wilkinson, Chairman, 50th District
PO Box 2227
Toccoa, GA 30577

Sen. Lee Anderson, Vice-Chairman, 24th District
160 Louisville Road
Grovetown, Ga 30813

Sen. Ellis Black, Secretary, 8th District
5900 Jumping Gully Road
Valdosta, GA 31601

Sen. Dean Burke, 11th District
1500 East Shotwell Street
Bainbridge, GA 39819

Sen. Tyler Harper, 7th District
PO Box 798
Ocilla, GA 31774

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

Sen. Greg Kirk, 13th District
P.O. Box 6085
Americus, GA 31709

Sen. Freddie Powell Sims, 12th District
5377 Goose Hollow Road
Dawson, GA 31742

Sen. Larry Walker, III 20th District
1110 Washington Street
Perry, GA 31069

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Consumer Affairs

January 25, 2017

The **Senate Committee on Agriculture and Consumer Affairs** held a meeting on Wednesday, January 25, 2017 in room 450 CAP of the State Capitol at 3:00 p.m.

The following Senators were present:

Sen. John Wilkinson (50th), Chairman
Sen. Lee Anderson (24th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Tyler Harper (7th)
Sen. Bill Heath (31st)
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th)
Sen. Larry Walker, III (20th)

NOTE: Sen. Ellis Black (8th), Secretary, Sen. Dean Burke (11th), and Sen. Greg Kirk (13th) were absent.

Chairman Wilkinson (50th) called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m., held an introduction and Vice-Chairman Anderson (24th) led the prayer.

Sen. Walker (20th) made a motion to adopt the Committee Rules for the 2017-2018 term. Sen. Anderson (24th) seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, 5-0. A copy of the Rules is attached.

Chairman Wilkinson (50th) adjourned the meeting at 3:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/ s / Sen. John Wilkinson (50th), Chairman

/ s / Taylor Hartshorn, Recording Secretary

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Consumer Affairs
Rules - 2017-2018

1. These Committee Rules of Operation shall be consistent with Senate Rule **2-1.5** regarding the establishment of Rules of Operation.
2. Quorum of the Committee shall be five (5) members.
3. The Chairman shall determine which bills and resolutions are to be considered and the order in which said measures are considered; the Chairman shall have the authority and discretion to call a bill, resolution, substitute, or amendment for debate and explanation only or to limit consideration of such measures.
4. The Chairman may appoint Subcommittees and officers of Subcommittees and shall have the authority to refer bills and resolutions to Subcommittee 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. All actions of the Subcommittees shall be approved or disapproved by the full Committee.
5. When a bill or resolution is before the Committee for consideration, the following shall be the precedence of the motions:
 - a. A motion that a bill do pass;
 - b. A motion that a bill do not pass;
 - c. A motion to postpone to a time certain;
 - d. A motion to refer a bill to a Subcommittee
6. A “do pass” motion that fails does not automatically give a “do not pass” recommendation, nor does a “do not pass” motion which fails give an affirmative recommendation. A “do not pass” motion which passes is considered unfavorably reported by the Committee and may not be taken up by the full Senate.
7. The Committee shall convene, recess and adjourn upon the order of the Chairman.
8. Any members of the Committee who disagree with the majority report of the Committee shall be privileged to file a minority report, in writing, with the Secretary of the Senate when the Committee report is read, pursuant to Senate Rule **2-1.6**.
9. These Rules may be amended upon a motion duly made and subsequently approved by a quorum of the Committee in a meeting called by the Chairman.
10. A bill, resolution, or other matter will be considered only after the presentation by its principal author or a legislator whom he designates to do so. In the event that more than one member of the General Assembly has signed a measure, the principal author shall be the one whose name appeared first in the list of authors.

11. The Chairman reserves the right to delay action on substitutes and amendments not provided by the Chairman at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the hearing.

12. Where these Rules are silent on a specific issue, the Rules of the Senate, as adopted, shall govern, pursuant to Senate Rule **2-1.5**.

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Consumer Affairs
February 1, 2017

The **Senate Committee on Agriculture and Consumer Affairs** held a meeting on Wednesday, February 1, 2017 in room 450 of the State Capitol at 3:00 p.m.

The following Senators were present:

Sen. John Wilkinson (50th), Chairman
Sen. Lee Anderson (24th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Ellis Black (8th), Secretary
Sen. Tyler Harper (7th)
Sen. Bill Heath (31st)
Sen. Greg Kirk (13th)
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th)
Sen. Larry Walker, III (20th)

NOTE: Sen. Dean Burke (11th) was absent.

Chairman Wilkinson (50th) convened the meeting at 3:02 p.m.

Sen. Kirk (13th) began the meeting with a prayer.

SB 78 (Sen. Lee Anderson, 24th, LC 40 1337) Adulteration and Misbranding of Food; Commissioner of Agriculture to issue a variance to certain rules and regulations; authorize

Sen. Anderson (24th) introduced the bill, which allows the Department of Agriculture to regulate food. It would provide flexibility, help businesses, and protect food and public health. Sen. Sims (12) asked why the variance is an issue and Sen. Anderson (24th) explained that certain guidelines align with FDA and they want to avoid “misbranding” foods.

Commissioner Gary Black was called to speak. Division of Food and Safety came to testify alongside him in support. The variance ensures the safest food, and allows “smoked meats” to be produced in a retail setting, with the burden on the producer. Sen. Walker (20th) asked for an example and Natalie Adan from Division of Food and Safety said smoked/cured meat.

Sen. Black (8th) made a motion **Do Pass**. Sen. Kirk (13th) seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-1. Sen. Sims (12th) was the no vote.

SB 78 DO PASS

SB 69 (Sen. John Wilkinson, 50th, LC 40 1291) Packaging, Labeling and Registration of Organic Products and Certifying Entities; registration requirement; eliminate

Sen. Anderson (24th) stepped in as Chairman while Sen. Wilkinson (50th) presented the bill to remove regulations requirements for organic food.

Sen. Heath (31st) made a motion **Do Pass**. Sen. Harper (7th) seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-1, with Sen. Sims (12th) voting no.

SB 69 DO PASS

Commissioner Black gave an agricultural update.

Chairman Wilkinson (50th) adjourned the meeting at 3:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/ s / Sen. Ellis Black (8th), Secretary

/ s / Taylor Hartshorn, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Consumer Affairs
February 15, 2017

The **Senate Committee on Agriculture and Consumer Affairs** held a meeting on Wednesday, February 15, 2017 in room 450 of the State Capitol at 3:00 p.m.

The following Senators were present:

Sen. John Wilkinson (50th), Chairman
Sen. Lee Anderson (24th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Ellis Black (8th), Secretary
Sen. Dean Burke (11th)
Sen. Tyler Harper (7th)
Sen. Bill Heath (31st)
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th)
Sen. Larry Walker, III (20th)

NOTE: Sen. Greg Kirk (13th) was absent.

Chairman Wilkinson (50th) convened the meeting at 3:07 p.m.

HB 176 (Rep. Tom McCall, 33rd, LC 40 1289) Agriculture, Department of; enter into agreements with the federal government to enforce provisions of certain federal laws; authorize

Sen. Burke (11th) made a motion **Do Pass**. Sen. Anderson (24th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0. Sen. Walker (20th) will be the Senate sponsor.

HB 176 DO PASS

HB 49 (Rep. Clay Pirkle, 155th, LC 40 1260) Livestock dealers and auctions; license and surety requirements; update

Sen. Black (8th) asked questions about never having the requirement in the past. Sen. Heath (31st) questioned line 26 and Commissioner Black clarified. Sen. Anderson (24th) and Sen. Heath (31st) conversed back and forth about auctioneers.

Sen. Anderson (24th) made a motion **Do Pass**. Sen. Heath (31st) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0. Sen. Tyler Harper (7th) will be the Senate sponsor.

HB 49 DO PASS

SR 205 (Sen. Frank Ginn, 47th, LC 40 1396) US Congress; eliminate all requirements for use of ethanol as a fuel for vehicles and equipment; urge

Sen. Ginn (47th) presented the resolution.

Sen. Black (8th) made a motion **Do Pass**. Sen. Heath (31st) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

SR 205 DO PASS

NOTE: Sen. Anderson (24th) left at 3:43 p.m. Sen. Burke (11th) left at 3:57 p.m.

SB 115 (Sen. Frank Ginn, 47th, LC 40 1342ER) Sale of Ethanol Gasoline; prohibit within the state; provide for conformity; program providing grants for promotion of E-85 gasoline; repeal

Sen. Ginn (47th) presented the bill, Sen. Heath (31st) and Sen. Black (8th) asked questions.

Mike Giles, President of Georgia Poultry, testified in favor of the bill.

Alex Bradford, Georgia Farm Bureau, supported the bill, but also expressed some concerns.

Jonathan Lathbury, citizen, spoke in support.

Bryan Tolar, Georgia Agribusiness Council, spoke against the bill.

A motion was made by Sen. Walker (20th) to table the bill. Sen. Heath (31st) and Sen. Black (8th) seconded the motion simultaneously. The motion to table passed unanimously with all present, 5-0.

SB 115 TABLED

Chairman Wilkinson (50th) adjourned the meeting at 4:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/ s / Sen. Ellis Black (8th), Secretary

/ s / Taylor Hartshorn, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Consumer Affairs
March 15, 2017

The **Senate Committee on Agriculture and Consumer Affairs** held a meeting on Wednesday, March 15, 2017 in room 450 of the State Capitol at 3:00 p.m.

The following Senators were present:

Sen. John Wilkinson (50th), Chairman
Sen. Lee Anderson (24th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Ellis Black (8th), Secretary
Sen. Dean Burke (11th)
Sen. Tyler Harper (7th)
Sen. Greg Kirk (13th)
Sen. Larry Walker, III (20th)

NOTE: Sen. Bill Heath (31st) and Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th) were absent.

Chairman Wilkinson (50th) convened the meeting at 3:08 p.m.

HB 40 (Rep. Scot Turner, 21st, LC 40 1263) Evidence; confidentiality of certain medical information of animals within a veterinarian's care; provide exception

Rep. Turner (21st) presented the bill, although it is just a hearing. Sen. Anderson (24th) and Sen. Kirk (13th) posed some questions.

Susan Lee, a citizen from Gwinnett Co. testified against the bill but did not speak to the right version, so was cut short.

This was a hearing only.

HB 50 (Rep. Clay Pirkle, 155th, LC 41 1128S) Livestock; liability protection for certain activities; provide

Rep. Pirkle (155th) presented the bill pertaining to livestock liability.

Will Bentley, Georgia Cattleman's Association, spoke in support of the bill.
Alex Bradford, Georgia Farm Bureau, spoke in support of the bill.

Sen. Harper (7th) made a motion **Do Pass** and Sen. Black (8th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0. Sen. Ellis Black (8th) will be the Senate sponsor.

HB 50 DO PASS

Chairman Wilkinson (50th) adjourned the meeting at 3:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/ s / Sen. Ellis Black (8th), Secretary

/ s / Taylor Hartshorn, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Consumer Affairs

March 22, 2017

The **Senate Committee on Agriculture and Consumer Affairs** held a meeting on Wednesday, March 22, 2017 in the Senate Mezzanine of the State Capitol at 4:00 p.m.

The following Senators were present:

Sen. John Wilkinson (50th), Chairman
Sen. Lee Anderson (24th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Ellis Black (8th), Secretary
Sen. Dean Burke (11th)
Sen. Tyler Harper (7th)
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th)
Sen. Larry Walker, III (20th)

NOTE: Sen. Bill Heath (31st) and Sen. Greg Kirk (13th) were absent.

Chairman Wilkinson (50th) convened the meeting at 4:02 p.m.

HB 40 (Rep. Scot Turner, 21st, LC 40 1263) Evidence; confidentiality of certain medical information of animals within a veterinarian's care; provide exception

Sen. Burke (11th) made a motion **Do Pass**. Sen. Sims (12th) and Sen. Anderson (24th) seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0. Sen. Bruce Thompson (14th) will be the Senate sponsor.

HB 40 DO PASS

Bo Warren, Legislative Liaison for the Georgia Department of Agriculture, talked about agriculture week and a video from Georgia Grown was played for the Committee.

Chairman Wilkinson (50th) adjourned the meeting at 4:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/ s / Sen. Ellis Black (8th), Secretary

/ s / Taylor Hartshorn, Recording Secretary

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The State Senate
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

COMMITTEES:

Agriculture and Consumer Affairs, Chairman
Education and Youth, Vice-Chairman
Appropriations
Natural Resources and the Environment
Rules, Ex-Officio

April 6, 2017

APR 10 PM 12:38
DW

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

Dear Mr. Cook:

I return herewith to the Office of the Secretary of the Senate, the following bills which were not acted upon in the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Consumer Affairs during the 2017 Legislative Session:

SB 214

SB 257

SB 21

SB 115

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Taylor Hartshorn".

Taylor Hartshorn

Senate Committee Administrative Assistant on behalf of Chairman John Wilkinson