

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND YOUTH  
2017-2018 MEMBERS**

Sen. Lindsey Tippins, Chairman  
District 37  
139 Midway Road  
Marietta, GA 30064  
Phone: (770) 424-2700

Sen. John Wilkinson, Vice-Chairman  
District 50  
P.O. Box 2227  
Toccoa, GA 30577  
Phone: (706) 886-1898

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

Sen. Ellis Black  
District 8  
5900 Jumping Gully Road  
Valdosta, GA 31601  
Phone: (229) 559-7546

Sen. Matt Brass  
District 28  
P.O. Box 1313  
Newnan, GA 30264  
Phone: (770) 265-6100

Sen. Donzella James  
District 35  
5534 Old National Hwy  
Building H Suite 100  
College Park, GA 30306  
Phone: (404) 923-1379

Sen. Fran Millar  
District 40  
P.O. Box 88096  
Atlanta, GA 30358  
Phone: (404) 923-3607

Sen. Elena Parent  
District 42  
774 Springdale Road NE  
Atlanta, GA 30306  
Phone: (404) 656-5109

Sen. Jesse Stone  
District 23  
827 N. Liberty Street  
Waynesboro, GA 30830  
Phone: (706) 554-5223  
Fax: (478) 237-9211

Sen. Horacena Tate  
District 38  
201 Joseph E. Lowery Blvd. NW  
Atlanta, GA 30314  
Phone: (404) 463-8053

**MINUTES OF THE JOINT HOUSE AND SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
EDUCATION AND YOUTH  
January 10, 2017**

The Joint House and Senate Committees on Education and Youth met on Tuesday, January 10, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. in room 606 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building.

**SENATORS PRESENT**

Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th), Chairman  
Sen. John Wilkinson (50th), Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Ellis Black (8th)  
Sen. Fran Millar (40th)

**NOTE:** Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary, Sen. Matt Brass (28th), Sen. Donzella James (35th), Sen. Elena Parent (42nd), Sen. Jesse Stone (23rd), and Sen. Horacena Tate (38th) were absent.

Chairman Tippins (37th) called the meeting to order at 1:12 p.m.

Presenters:

**Dr. Melissa Fincher, Deputy Superintendent, Georgia Department of Education**

She spoke on assessment foundations while presenting a Georgia Department of Education presentation on formative assessments. She noted that assessments have decreased in the past few years and that the Georgia districts average five tests (two in elementary, one in middle and two again in high schools). Her report then turned to the Georgia Milestones, comparing test scores to other states and presenting a map of educator involvement. She also pointed out that the growth scores are not the same as the test scores, that the Department of Education reset the testing calendar from April 9 to April 18 and that Georgia doesn't fund the assessment department like other states.

**Allison Timberlake, Director of Accountability at College and Career Ready Performance Index**

She presented on the topic of data collection for the standardized tests, speaking about the complications due to volume, the need for simplification, public feedback, committees, clearer goals, new reporting systems and the general issues of compiling data.

**Chuck Clay, Georgia Education Coalition**

He introduced the Georgia Education Coalition.

**Superintendent Hightower, Cherokee County Schools**

He spoke on the harshness of the College and Career Ready Performance Index, claiming that the index has unintended consequences.

**Dr. Amelia Davis, Chief Academic Officer Cobb County**

She spoke on the need to reduce the length of time children take on and during their tests. She also spoke on graduation rates.

**Dr. David Goldie, Fulton County Schools**

He spoke on how the College and Career Ready Performance Index results are slow, making the timeline window difficult to meet.

**Lisa Morgan, Teacher DeKalb County Schools**

She spoke on the difficulties in certain school district communities, pointing out that schools cannot fix communities and those communities lead to weaker test scores.

**Terry Thomas, Education Consultant LLC**

He voiced his support of HB 481, a bill focused on teaching historical perspectives of minorities. He also raised concerns about personnel in failing schools.

**Johns Otto, Georgia School Superintendents Association**

He asked if the state would broaden the College and Career Ready Performance Index score and if it truly reflects student growth and achievement.

Chairman Tippins (37th) adjourned the Senate Committee on Education and Youth meeting at 4:06 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th), Chairman

/s/ Samantha Nix, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND YOUTH**  
**January 23, 2017**

The Senate Committee on Education and Youth met on Monday, January 23, 2017, at 2:00 p.m. in room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building.

**SENATORS PRESENT**

Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th), Chairman  
Sen. John Wilkinson (50th), Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary  
Sen. Ellis Black (8th)  
Sen. Matt Brass (28th)  
Sen. Donzella James (35th)  
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd)  
Sen. Jesse Stone (23rd)

**NOTE:** Sen. Fran Millar (40th) and Sen. Horacena Tate (38th) were absent.

Chairman Tippins (37th) called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

Sen. Wilkinson (50th) made a motion to adopt the Committee Rules for the 2017 session. Sen. Sims (12th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (7-0). A copy of the Rules is attached.

Chairman Tippins (37th) adjourned the meeting at 2:06 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary

/s/ Samantha Nix, Recording Secretary

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND YOUTH  
RULES - 2017 SESSION**

**The Rules of the Committee shall be the Rules of the Subcommittees.**

1. The quorum for the Committee on Education and Youth shall be 6 members. Record of attendance will be maintained for each full Committee or Subcommittee meeting. This information shall be considered public.
2. The Committee shall convene, recess and adjourn upon the order of the chairman. Recess or adjournment of the Committee may also take place by an affirmative vote of a majority of the members present.
3. A bill or resolution will only be placed on the Committee agenda after its principal sponsor completes a bill summary form. When a bill or resolution is placed on the Committee agenda, the principal sponsor shall be notified of the time and the place of the hearing. A bill, resolution, or other matter will be considered only after presentation by its principal sponsor or a legislator designated by the principal sponsor.
4. The Chairman shall establish the meeting agenda and determine the measures to be considered and the order of consideration. No motion that the Committee recommends (Do Pass, Do Not Pass, etc.) shall be in order until the Chairperson has stated that such a motion will be entertained.
5. The Chairman may appoint Subcommittees and officers of Subcommittees, and at the discretion of the Chairman, refer any matter to a Subcommittee; but no measure will be returned to the full Senate until it is considered by the full Committee. All Committee officers will be ex-officio voting Subcommittee members.
6. Any member or members who disagree with the majority report of the Committee may file a minority report as provided in the Rules of the Senate.
7. These Rules may be amended or suspended upon motion duly made and approved by a majority of the members of the Committee.
8. Five minutes prior to, during, and five minutes after a televised or web-cast Committee meeting, no one other than a member of the Committee, Legislative Counsel, Committee Aide, Administrative Assistant to the Chairperson, or Committee Intern, shall walk beyond the witness pulpit for any reason.

9. During Committee meetings, Committee members and everyone in the audience shall either turn off or place in silent mode all cell phones, pagers or other similar devices.

10. Any proposed measure shall include a fiscal note when appropriate, as determined by the Chairman, prior to Committee consideration.

11. All publications, flyers, or any other materials to be distributed to the Committee shall be given to the Chairman or their assistant and will be distributed by the Chairman at the appropriate time.

12. Except for Legislative Counsel, no one shall speak to a member of the Committee while a televised or web-cast meeting is in progress without first obtaining the consent of the Chairman. A request to speak should be given to the Administrative Aide or Committee Aide, which will then be passed to the Chairman for approval.

13. Action may be taken by the Committee on any bill the first time it is presented. The Chairperson shall have the option to take action on a resolution.

14. Committee and Subcommittee members may question witnesses only when they have been recognized by the Chairman for that purpose. The Chairman may also set time limits for this process.

15. The Secretary of the Committee shall cause a copy of these Rules to be distributed to all members of the Senate.

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND YOUTH**  
**February 1, 2017**

The Senate Committee on Education and Youth met on Wednesday, February 1, 2017, at 2:00 p.m. in room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building.

**SENATORS PRESENT**

Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th), Chairman  
Sen. John Wilkinson (50th), Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary  
Sen. Ellis Black (8th)  
Sen. Matt Brass (28th)  
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd)  
Sen. Jesse Stone (23rd)

**NOTE:** Sen. Donzella James (35th), Sen. Fran Millar (40th), and Sen. Horacena Tate (38th) were absent.

Chairman Tippins (37th) called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

**SB 76 (Sen. Ellis Black, 8th, LC 33 6751) Sales Tax; distribution of sales tax for educational purposes; change certain provisions**

Sen. Black (8th) presented the bill. He stated that an urging resolution would accompany this bill and he would like to wait until the Committee received both pieces of legislation before proceeding.

**HEARING ONLY**

**SB 97 (Sen. Elena Parent, 42nd, LC 33 6715) Early Care and Learning; parents in job training or educational program; expand child care subsidies from one year to two years**

Sen. Parent (42nd) presented the bill.

Sen. Stone (23rd) inquired whether the bill requires a fiscal note. Ray Higgins, Department of Early Care and Learning, answered, stating that the funds are there from both the federal and state agencies.

Guest speakers spoke in favor of the bill:

Ellen Reynolds, Georgia Childcare Association  
Pam Tatum, Quality Care for Children  
Debra Deckner-Davis, Psychology professor from Clayton State  
Melissa Johnson, Senior Policy Analyst for Georgia Budget and Policy  
Mindy Binderman, Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students  
Tim Cairl, Head of Education Policy for Metro Atlanta Chamber,  
Ray Higgins, Department of Early Care and Learning

Polly McKinney, Voices for Georgia Children  
**HEARING ONLY**

Chairman Tippins (37th) adjourned the meeting at 2:49 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary

/s/ Samantha Nix, Recording Secretary



**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND YOUTH**  
**February 8, 2017**

The Senate Committee on Education and Youth met on Wednesday, February 8, 2017, at 3:00 p.m. in room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building.

**SENATORS PRESENT**

Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th), Chairman  
Sen. John Wilkinson (50th), Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary  
Sen. Ellis Black (8th)  
Sen. Matt Brass (28th)  
Sen. Fran Millar (40th)  
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd)  
Sen. Jesse Stone (23rd)  
Sen. Horacena Tate (38th)

**NOTE:** Sen. Donzella James (35th) was absent.

Chairman Tippins (37th) called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m.

**SB 3 (Sen. Lindsey Tippins, 37th, LC 33 6769) "Creating Opportunities Needed Now to Expand Credentialed Training (CONNECT) Act"; enact**

Sen. Tippins (37th), Irene Munn, the General Counsel and Director of Policy for the Lieutenant Governor, and Zack Fields, Director of School Relations presented the bill. The bill attempts to guarantee competency and mastery of skills by opening up for specific credentials. It also creates a new competitive grant program.

Guest speakers spoke in favor of the bill:

Jimmy Stokes, Georgia Association of Educational Leaders  
Amy Lancaster, Metro Atlanta Chamber  
Roy Bowen, Georgia Association of Manufacturers  
Dr. Barbara Wall, Georgia Department of Education  
Joel McKie, Georgia Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association  
Mark Woodall, Associated General Contractors  
Matthew Gambill, Georgia Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association

**HEARING ONLY**

**SR 95 (Sen. Ellis Black, 8th, LC 33 6750) Sales and Use Tax; net proceeds; educational purposes; county school system; independent school systems; provide for distribution-CA**

Sen. Black (8th) presented the bill. The bill creates new provisions for school districts to ask for sales tax referendums to impose a one percent tax for educational purposes.

Sen. Stone (23rd) made a motion **Do Pass by Substitute**, and Sen. Sims (12th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

**SR 95 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE LC 33 6843S**

Chairman Tippins (37th) adjourned the meeting at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary

/s/ Samantha Nix, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND YOUTH**  
**February 10, 2017**

The Senate Committee on Education and Youth met on Friday, February 10, 2017, at 1:00 p.m. in room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building.

**SENATORS PRESENT**

Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th), Chairman  
Sen. Ellis Black (8th)  
Sen. Matt Brass (28th)  
Sen. Fran Millar (40th)  
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd) (Arrived late, left early)  
Sen. Jesse Stone (23rd)  
Sen. Horacena Tate (38th)

**NOTE:** Sen. John Wilkinson (50th), Vice-Chairman, Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary, and Sen. Donzella James (35th) were absent.

Chairman Tippins (37th) called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.

**SB 3 (Sen. Lindsey Tippins, 37th, LC 33 6769) "Creating Opportunities Needed Now to Expand Credentialed Training (CONNECT) Act"; enact**

Sen. Tippins (37th), John Easier, CEO Career Academy, and Irene Munn, General Counsel and Director of Policy for the Lt. Governor, presented the bill. They spoke on career pathways and academies for advanced studies. Sen. Tippins (37th) stated that this bill is an attempt at ensuring academic competency as well as skills mastery.

A guest speaker spoke in favor of the bill:

Mark Woodall, Director Governmental Affairs, Associated General Contractors

Sen. Millar (40th) made a motion **Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Stone (23rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

**SB 3 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE LC 33 6876S**

**NOTE:** Sen. Parent (42nd) arrived at 1:14 p.m.

**SB 30 (Sen. Vincent Fort, 39th, LC 33 6682) Sustainable Community School Operational Grants; definitions; planning and implementation grants; provide**

Sen. Fort (39th) presented the bill. He explained the model wrap-around services, the bill as an alternative to other forms of education and how the bill serves as another way to direct resources to education.

Sen. Millar (40th) noted that Sen. Fort's (39th) bill seemed very similar to a House bill from the Governor.

Sen. Tippins (37th) responded by comparing the differences between the language presented in this bill as opposed to the mirror language of the House. He also spoke about general funding.

**NOTE:** Sen. Parent (42nd) left the meeting at 1:33 p.m.

Guest speakers spoke in favor of this bill:

Helen Butler, Co-Chair Georgia College Personnel Association

Carolyn Wood, Public Education Matters

Rev. Diane Dougherty, Georgia Coalition for Public Education

Jane Howe, Teachers Rally Against Georgia Insurance Changes

William Berry, Southern Education Foundation

Cita Cook, Retired Educator

Verdallia Turner, Georgia Federation of Teachers

Rita Scott, Political Director Communication Workers of America

Kimberly Brooks, Keep Georgia Schools Local

Connie Jackson, Cobb County Association of Educators

Chris Bowmann, Executive Director Georgia Association of Educators

Jerome Harris, CBC

Ron Shiarkir, People TV

**HEARING ONLY**

Chairman Tippins (37th) adjourned the meeting at 2:06 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th), Chairman

/s/ Samantha Nix, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND YOUTH**  
**February 15, 2017**

The Senate Committee on Education and Youth met on Wednesday, February 15, 2017, at 2:00 p.m. in room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building.

**SENATORS PRESENT**

Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th), Chairman  
Sen. John Wilkinson (50th), Vice-Chairman (Left early)  
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary (Left early)  
Sen. Ellis Black (8th) (Left early)  
Sen. Matt Brass (28th)  
Sen. Fran Millar (40th) (Arrived late, left early)  
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd)  
Sen. Jesse Stone (23rd)  
Sen. Horacena Tate (38th)

**NOTE:** Sen. Donzella James (35th) was absent.

Chairman Tippins (37th) called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

**SR 192 (Sen. John Wilkinson, 50th, LC 28 8144) General Assembly; election of local school superintendents; local boards of education by grand juries as alternative to appointment; authorize –CA**

Sen. Wilkinson (50th), the author of SR 192, presented the bill. It requires a constitutional amendment for local school board members to be elected by a grand jury if the General Assembly passes a law for the election of the school superintendents of local school systems.

**NOTE:** Sen. Millar (40th) arrived at 2:09 p.m.

Sen. Parent (42nd) raised concerns over the limited pool of potential superintendents given the wording of the current bill.

Sen. Wilkinson (50th) responded, saying that it is a positive to choose a superintendent from the county.

Sen. Stone (23rd) raised similar concerns. He remarked that elections are not as effective for superintendents as they are for school boards. He also asked about any mechanism in place to replace an underperforming superintendent.

Sen. Sims (12th) spoke in favor of the resolution, saying options for superintendents are needed.

Chairman Tippins (37th) noted that this resolution requires both local and general legislation.

Sen. Wilkinson (50th) agreed and asked to table the resolution to change the language. No motion was made on the request to table.

Sen. Brass (28th) expressed the fear that special elections for superintendents may lead to unqualified candidates and inevitably unqualified superintendents.

**HEARING ONLY**

**SB 149 (Sen. Emanuel Jones, 10th, LC 41 1006) School Resource Officers; training requirements; provide**

Sen. Jones (10th) and Ken Vance, Director of POST, presented the bill. They spoke about certification for School Resource Officers (SROs).

Sen. Stone (23rd) praised the bill as a step in the right direction, asking if the bill covered bullying or mandatory responses to child abuse and juvenile justice.

Sen. Tippins (37th) said the bill needs to include mandated training for School Resource Officers (SROs).

Sen. Millar (40th) expressed concerns over a mandate. He did express support for the bill.

**HEARING ONLY**

**SB 150 (Sen. Emanuel Jones, 10th, LC 33 6869) Loitering at or Disrupting Schools; written agreements between local boards of education and law enforcement officials; provide provisions**

Sen. Jones (10th) presented the bill. The bill defines training guidelines for School Resource Officers (SROs).

A guest speaker spoke in support of the bill:  
Lieutenant Dukes, School Resource Officer (SRO) Henry Co.

**HEARING ONLY**

**NOTE:** Sen. Wilkinson (50th) left at 2:50 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Millar (40th) left at 2:54 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Black (8th) left at 2:58 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Brass (28th) left at 2:59 p.m.

Guest speakers spoke in support of their charter school systems:

Mike Newton, Superintendent, Jasper County

Bubba Longrear, Superintendent, Candler County

Jeff Wilson, Superintendent, White County

Jeff Rose, Superintendent, Fulton County

**NOTE:** Sen. Brass (28th) returned to the meeting at 3:09 p.m. and Sen. Sims (12th) left at 3:10 p.m.

Chairman Tippins (37th) adjourned the meeting at 3:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary

/s/ Samantha Nix, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND YOUTH**  
**February 17, 2017**

The Senate Committee on Education and Youth met on Friday, February 17, 2017, at 1:00 p.m. in room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building.

**SENATORS PRESENT**

Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th), Chairman  
Sen. John Wilkinson (50th), Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary  
Sen. Ellis Black (8th)  
Sen. Matt Brass (28th)  
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd) (Arrived late)  
Sen. Jesse Stone (23rd)  
Sen. Horacena Tate (38th)

**NOTE:** Sen. Donzella James (35th) and Sen. Fran Millar (40th) were absent.

Chairman Tippins (37th) called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m.

**SB 139 (Sen. Hunter Hill, 6th, LC 33 6805) Focused Programs of Study; pathway in leadership; provide**

**NOTE:** Sen. Parent (42nd) arrived at 1:08 p.m.

Guest speakers spoke in favor of the bill:  
Steve Lambert, School Principal  
Matthew Kirby, Chairman of the Board of Directors Atlanta Classical Academy

Sen. Hill (6th) spoke about the focused programs of study of his bill.

Sen. Parent (42nd) asked if leadership is applicable to all areas across the state.

Sen. Wilkinson (50th) questioned the necessity of specific language pertaining to the addition of leadership as a pathway if language already existed for creating a new pathway.

**HEARING ONLY**

**SB 152 (Sen. Emanuel Jones, 10th, LC 33 6825) Education; policy of the state; students who are subject to compulsory attendance; not assigned to alternative education program more than two semesters; provide**

Sen. Jones (10th) presented the bill and covered the importance of not having students removed from public schools as a form of punishment.



Guest speakers spoke in favor of the bill:  
Kaitlin Barnes, Graduate Student  
Polly McKinney, Voices for Georgia Children

**HEARING ONLY**

**SB 181 (Sen. Lester Jackson, 2nd, LC 34 5074ER) State Income Taxes; definition; change**

Sen. Jackson (2nd) presented the bill. The bill amends legislation for tax credits for donations to private scholarships as well as public schools. The bill includes donations for public charters.

Sen. Stone (23rd) asked if the bill included a limitation on aggregate amount or a fiscal note.

Sen. Tippins (37th) stated that the bill should include a limit on the aggregate amount of donations.

**HEARING ONLY**

Chairman Tippins (37th) adjourned the meeting at 1:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary

/s/ Samantha Nix, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND YOUTH**  
**February 22, 2017**

The Senate Committee on Education and Youth met on Wednesday, February 22, 2017, at 2:00 p.m. in room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building.

**SENATORS PRESENT**

Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th), Chairman  
Sen. John Wilkinson (50th), Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary  
Sen. Ellis Black (8th)  
Sen. Matt Brass (28th)  
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd) (Left early)  
Sen. Jesse Stone (23rd) (Left early)  
Sen. Horacena Tate (38th)

**NOTE:** Sen. Donzella James (35th) and Sen. Fran Millar (40th) were absent.

Chairman Tippins (37th) called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m.

**SB 98 (Sen. Elena Parent, 42nd, LC 33 6717) Capital Outlay Funds; used for educational facilities for voluntary pre-kindergarten programs; provide**

Sen. Parent (42nd) presented the bill. It covers the issues of children on Pre-K waiting lists.

Guest speakers spoke in favor of the bill:  
Marshall Orson, DeKalb Board of Education  
Dr. David Dude, City Schools of Decatur  
Dr. Dana Rickman

Guest speakers spoke against the bill:  
Ellen Reynolds, Georgia Child Care Association

Guest speakers commented on the bill:  
Lou Erste, Georgia Department of Education

**HEARING ONLY**

**SB 203 (Sen. Bruce Thompson, 14th, LC 33 6780) Education; designation of a nonprofit organization to govern high school athletics in this state; definitions; governing structure; provide**

Sen. Thompson (14th) authored and presented the bill by speaking about Georgia High School Association (GHSA) holding a monopoly on student athletics. He explained that the language of this bill mirrors a current Florida law.

Sen. Wilkinson (50th) asked if the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) allowed games during school time.

Sen. Black (8th) asked if the Georgia High School Association (GHSA) board would change in leadership and requested an explanation on the Florida model.

Sen. Sims (12th) wondered if the bill would eliminate the Georgia High School Association (GHSA).

Sen. Tate (38th) noted that there has been no change in the Georgia High School Association (GHSA) in a long time.

**HEARING ONLY**

**SB 211 (Sen. Lindsey Tippins, 37th, LC 33 6920) Student Assessments; consideration of local reading programs; research based formative assessments; summative component; provide**

Sen. Tippins (37th) presented the bill. He explained his concerns with testing and mentioned that there was still work to be done on the language of the bill.

Guest speakers spoke in favor of the bill:

Lou Erste, Associate Superintendent for Policy, Georgia Department of Education

Melissa Fincher, Ph.D., Deputy Superintendent, Georgia Department of Education

Jane Robbins, American Principals Project

Jeff Rose, Board Member, Fulton County Schools

Katie Reeves, Board Member, Fulton County Schools

Dr. Grant Riveria, Superintendent, Marietta City Schools

**HEARING ONLY**

**NOTE:** Sen. Parent (42nd) left at 3:01 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Stone (23rd) left at 3:07 p.m.

Chairman Tippins (37th) adjourned the meeting at 3:22 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary

/s/ Samantha Nix, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND YOUTH**  
**February 24, 2017**

The Senate Committee on Education and Youth met on Friday, February 24, 2017, at 1:00 p.m. in room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building.

**SENATORS PRESENT**

Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th), Chairman  
Sen. John Wilkinson (50th), Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary  
Sen. Ellis Black (8th)  
Sen. Matt Brass (28th)  
Sen. Donzella James (35th)  
Sen. Fran Millar (40th)  
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd)  
Sen. Jesse Stone (23rd)  
Sen. Horacena Tate (38th) (Left early)

Chairman Tippins (37th) called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m.

**SR 192 (Sen. John Wilkinson, 50th, LC 28 8144) General Assembly; election of local school superintendents; local boards of education by grand juries as alternative to appointment; authorize –CA**

Sen. Wilkinson (50th) presented the bill. The bill would not change districts and allows for a new method of choosing a superintendent by elections.

A guest speaker spoke against the bill:

Dr. John Zauner, Executive Director, Georgia School Superintendents Association

Sen. Black (8th) made a motion **Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Sims (12th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

**SR 192 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE LC 33 6921S**

**SB 186 (Sen. Lindsey Tippins, 37th, LC 33 6890) Education; HOPE; students who earned high school diploma through dual coursework are eligible; associate degree; clarify**

Sen. Tippins (37th) and Irene Munn, Director of Policy and Legal Counsel for the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, presented the bill. The bill clarifies specifications for the HOPE scholarship.

An amendment to the bill was offered that extends HOPE to associate degrees.

Sen. James (35th) made a motion to adopt the amendment. Sen. Millar (40th) seconded the motion. The amendment was adopted unanimously (9-0).

Sen. James (35th) made a motion **Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Millar (40th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

**SB 186 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE LC 33 6979S**

**SB 68 (Sen. Hunter Hill, 6th, LC 33 6784) 'Individual Student Education Account Act'**

Sen. Hill (6th) presented the bill. The bill would allow for the creation of educational savings accounts.

Sen. Parent (42nd) asked if the savings account would be enough money per student, and asked if the bill is allocating already scarce resources, making things worse in certain areas.

Sen. Stone (23rd) asked if Sen. Hill (6th) would consider a study into the dollar amount of the savings accounts.

Sen. Millar (40th) asked whether the means are tested.

Sen. Sims (12th) asked about the benefits for more isolated districts.

Sen James (35th) inquired if the bill would take more money from failing schools and, if so, the amount of money the bill might take away from said schools.

Sen. Stone (23rd) asked if the money would follow the student.

**NOTE:** Sen. Tate (38th) left at 2:11 p.m.

Guest speakers spoke in favor of the bill:

Keith McCutchen, President, Georgia Public Policy Foundation

Missy Moore

Michael O'Sullivan, Georgia Children's Advocacy Network

Jamie Lord, Georgia Center for Opportunity

Angela Wright, Moms for School Choice

Guest speakers spoke against the bill:

Cecily Harsch-Kinnane, Public Education Matters

Elizabeth Rhodes, Educators First

Cita Cook, Retired Teacher

Angela Palm, Georgia School Boards Association

Guest speakers presented some background information on the bill:

Adam Peshek, Education Choice Director, Foundation for Excellence in Education

Claire Suggs, Georgia Budget and Policy Institute

**HEARING ONLY**

**SB 139 (Sen. Hunter Hill, 6th, LC 33 6805) Focused Programs of Study; pathway in leadership; provide**

Sen. Hill (6th) presented the bill, explaining the necessity for a leadership pathway and how it will contribute to many career opportunities.

Sen. Millar (40th) asked why a law is necessary for a leadership pathway.

Sen. Wilkinson (50th) asked how many of the 16 current pathways came from the legislature, to which Sen. Millar (40th) answered “all of them.”

Sen. Millar (40th) made a motion **Do Pass by Substitute** and Sen. Stone (23rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

**SB 139 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE LC 33 6950S**

**SB 188 (Sen. Donzella James, 35th, LC 41 1015) Health; adopt a policy prohibiting school personnel from taking actions; psychotropic medication; require each local board of education**

Sen. James (35th) presented the bill. Chairman Tippins (37th) asked if she would change the word “should” to “shall”. If Sen. James (35th) changed the wording, the Chairman would bring it to a vote on a later date.

**HEARING ONLY**

**SB 152 (Sen. Emanuel Jones, 10th, LC 33 6825) Education; policy of the state; students who are subject to compulsory attendance; not assigned to alternative education program more than two semesters; provide**

Sen. Stone (23rd) made a motion **Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Millar (40th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

**DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE LC 33 6962S**

Chairman Tippins (37th) adjourned the meeting at 2:41 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary

/s/ Samantha Nix, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND YOUTH**  
**February 27, 2017**

The Senate Committee on Education and Youth met on Monday, February 27, 2017, at 3:00 p.m. in room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building.

**SENATORS PRESENT**

Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th), Chairman  
Sen. John Wilkinson (50th), Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary  
Sen. Matt Brass (28th)  
Sen. Donzella James (35th) (Arrived late)  
Sen. Fran Millar (40th) (Arrived late)  
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd) (Arrived late)  
Sen. Jesse Stone (23rd)  
Sen. Horacena Tate (38th)

**NOTE:** Sen. Ellis Black (8th) was absent.

Chairman Tippins (37th) called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m.

**SB 149 (Sen. Emanuel Jones, 10th, LC 41 1006) School Resource Officers; training requirements; provide**

Sen. Jones (10th) presented the bill. He spoke on the necessity of good training for school resource officers.

Sen. Tippins (37th) offered language on the bill.

**NOTE:** Sen. James (35th) and Sen. Millar (40th) arrived at 3:15 p.m.

Sen. Stone (23rd) made a motion to adopt the amendment offered by Sen. Tippins (37th). Sen. Brass (28th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Sen. Stone (23rd) made a motion **Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Brass (28th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

**SB 149 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE LC 33 6992S**

**NOTE:** Sen. Parent (42nd) arrived at 3:17 p.m.

**SB 188 (Sen. Donzella James, 35th, LC 41 1015) Health; adopt a policy prohibiting school personnel from taking actions; psychotropic medication; require each local board of education**

Sen. James (35th) presented the bill. She spoke on the necessity of allowing certain amounts of medication for students in school nurse offices.

Sen. Stone (23rd) made a motion **Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Tate (38th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

**SB 188 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE LC 33 6985S**

**SB 235 (Sen. Donzella James, 35th, LC 41 1051) "Deantre Gregory Turman Act"**

Sen. James (35th) presented the bill. She briefly lamented and explained the circumstance of the individual for whom the bill was named, the Gregory Turman Act, as he died on the football field as a result of poor football helmet and equipment standards.

Sen. Tate (38th) made a motion **Do Pass** and Sen. Parent (42nd) seconded. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

**SB 235 DO PASS**

**SB 30 (Sen. Vincent Fort, 39th, LC 33 6682) Sustainable Community School Operational Grants; definitions; planning and implementation grants; provide**

Sen. Fort (39th) presented the bill. He called the bill's pilot program another tool in the toolbox for education.

Sen. Millar (40th) said that some of the bill has errors, but it contains good ideas.

Sen. Stone (23rd) recognized the good in this bill.

Sen. Tippins (37th) remarked that the bill is useful in challenging situations.

Sen. Tate (38th) made a motion **Do Pass by Substitute** and was seconded by Sen. Brass (28th). The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

**SB 30 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE LC 33 6986S**

**SB 211 (Sen. Lindsey Tippins, 37th, LC 33 6920) Student Assessments; consideration of local reading programs; research based formative assessments; summative component; provide**

Sen. Tippins (37th) presented the bill, pointing out the changes agreed to by the Department of Education and districts across the state.

Sen. Millar (40th) motioned **Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Brass (28th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

**SB 211 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE LC 33 6988S**

Chairman Tippins (37th) adjourned the meeting at 3:35 p.m.



Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary

/s/ Samantha Nix, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND YOUTH**  
**March 6, 2017**

The Senate Committee on Education and Youth met on Friday, March 6, 2017, at 2:00 p.m. in room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building.

**SENATORS PRESENT**

Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th), Chairman  
Sen. John Wilkinson (50th), Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary  
Sen. Ellis Black (8th) (Left early)  
Sen. Matt Brass (28th)  
Sen. Donzella James (35th)  
Sen. Fran Millar (40th) (Left early)  
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd)  
Sen. Jesse Stone (23rd) (Left early)

**NOTE:** Sen. Horacena Tate (38th) was absent.

Chairman Tippins (37th) called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m.

**HB 338 (Rep. Kevin Tanner, 9th, LC 33 6968S) Education; system of supports and assistance for low-performing schools in the greatest need; provisions**

Rep. Tanner (9th) presented the bill. He spoke about the Opportunity School District, the guidelines for working with failing schools, chief turnaround officers and their underlings, education advisory council, tax credits and filing reports.

Sen. Millar (40th) asked about the procedure for schools that choose not to work with the state board. He then commented on the five-year wait before the state board can intervene.

Sen. Stone (23rd) asked how the legislature and state work with school improvement groups. He then asked about the costs of the initiative.

Sen. Sims (12th) asked if the bill had developed a definition of identification of failing schools.

Sen. Parent (42nd) asked about guidelines for schools in greatest need of assistance. She then asked if the member of the state board was employed by the Department of Education.

Sen. Brass (28th) asked when the opportunity schools legislation ends.

**NOTE:** Sen. Stone (23rd) left at 2:59 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Millar (40th) left at 3:00 p.m.

Sen. Wilkinson (50th) remarked that the chief turnaround officers are a good thing. He then asked why an independent report to the board of education is the best option.

**NOTE:** Sen. Black (8th) left at 3:04 p.m.

Sen. James (35th) asked about a fiscal note to price the leadership academy. She then noted that suspending local board members is already a part of current laws.

Guest speaker spoke on the bill:

Richard Woods, Georgia State School Superintendent, mentioned that this legislation was not yet required if the Department of Education was given time under new leadership of a new State School Superintendent.

**HEARING ONLY**

Chairman Tippins (37th) adjourned the meeting at 3:18 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary

/s/ Samantha Nix, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND YOUTH**  
**March 10, 2017**

The Senate Committee on Education and Youth met on Friday, March 10, 2017, at 1:00 p.m. in room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building.

**SENATORS PRESENT**

Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th), Chairman  
Sen. John Wilkinson (50th), Vice Chairman  
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary  
Sen. Ellis Black (8th)  
Sen. Matt Brass (28th)  
Sen. Donzella James (35th)  
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd)  
Sen. Jesse Stone (23rd) (Left early)  
Sen. Horacena Tate (38th)

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

Chairman Tippins (37th) called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

**HB 338 (Rep. Kevin Tanner, 9th, LC 33 6968S) Education; system of supports and assistance for low-performing schools in the greatest need; provisions**

Sen. Tippins (37th) and Richard Woods, Superintendent, Department of Education, presented the bill. Superintendent Woods explained that underperforming schools need new relationships and rebuilding of trust. He also said that a proactive, aggressive approach at every level is needed.

Sen. Stone (23rd) asked if there was a reduced version of the bill with recommendations.

Sen. Tippins (37th) asked how one would define low performing schools.

Sen. Tate (38th) asked if and when the Department of Education would have a comprehensive plan.

Guest speakers spoke neutrally on the bill:

Margaret Ciccareli, Professional Association of Georgia Educators  
Angela Palm, Georgia School Boards Association  
Sid Chapman, Georgia Association of Educators  
Michael O'Sullivan, Georgia Children's Advocacy Network  
Carolyn Wood, Public Education Matters  
Cita Cook, retired educator  
Janet Kisbaugh, Public Education Matters  
Mike Royal, Chairman, Board of Education, District 7  
Rev. Diane Dougherty, Georgia Coalition for Public Education  
Cecily Harsch, Public Education Matters

Jimmy Stokes, Georgia Association of Educational Leaders  
Gordon Rolle, Teacher  
Elizabeth Rhodes, Educators First

Guest speakers spoke in favor of the bill:  
George Bratchel, CSRA Minority Engagement

Guest speakers spoke in opposition to the bill:  
Jane Robbins, American Principles Project  
Verdallia Turner, Georgia Federation of Teachers

**HEARING ONLY**

**NOTE:** Sen. Stone (23rd) left at 2:19 p.m.

**HB 139 (Rep. Dave Belton, 112th, LC 33 6865S) Education; provide transparency of financial information of local school systems and schools; provisions**

Rep. Belton (112th) presented the bill. He pointed out the issues of transparency regarding funds for educational purposes. He also explained that it would align federal, state and local disclosure agreements.

Sen. Black (8th) made a motion **Do Pass**. Sen. Sims (12th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (7-0). Sen. Brass will be the Senate sponsor.

**HB 139 DO PASS**

Chairman Tippins (37th) adjourned the meeting at 2:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary

/s/ Samantha Nix, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND YOUTH**  
**March 13, 2017**

The Senate Committee on Education and Youth met on Monday, March 13, 2017, at 2:00 p.m. in room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building.

**SENATORS PRESENT**

Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th), Chairman (Arrived late)  
Sen. John Wilkinson (50th), Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary  
Sen. Ellis Black (8th) (Left early)  
Sen. Matt Brass (28th)  
Sen. Donzella James (35th)  
Sen. Fran Millar (40th)  
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd) (Left early)  
Sen. Jesse Stone (23rd) (Arrived late, left early)

**NOTE:** Sen. Horacena Tate (38th) was absent.

Vice-Chairman Wilkinson (50th) called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. due to the Chairman's delay. Per the request of the Chairman, all bills on the agenda were to be a hearing only until the Chairman arrived. Upon his arrival, the Chairman would decide if action should be taken on any bills on the agenda per his discretion.

**NOTE:** Sen. Stone (23rd) arrived at 2:06 p.m.

**HB 148 (Rep. Mike Glanton, 75th, LC 33 6782) Educating Children of Military Families Act; enact**

Rep. Glanton (75th) presented the bill. He spoke about how the bill better understands and assists military students and is a unique identifier for military family students.

Sen. Millar (40th) commented that the Senate Higher Education Committee passed a related bill.

Sen. James (35th) asked exactly what the state will be tracking.

Rep. Glanton (75th) explained that the Department of Education documents place an identifier on the student identification.

Sen. James (35th) asked if the students will be tracked after military service is over.

Rep. Glanton (75th) responded with a yes.

**HEARING ONLY**

**HB 198 (Rep. Katie Dempsey, 13th, LC 33 7016S) Elementary and secondary education; influenza vaccine; provide information**

Rep. Dempsey (13th) presented the bill. The bill does not mandate the flu vaccine but provides information on the subject.

Sen. Millar (40th) asked if the Centers for Disease Control provides the information.

Sen. James (35th) commented that vaccines are important, so providing information is a great measure.

**HEARING ONLY**

**HB 437 (Rep. Robert Dickey, 140th, LC 33 6971S) Agricultural Education Advisory Commission; recreate**

Rep. Dickey (140th) presented the bill. This bill recreates the Agricultural Education Advisory Commission.

Sen. Millar (40th) asked how Commissioner Black fits into the bill?

Sen. Wilkinson (50th) responded, saying that he met with Commissioner Black last year.

Guest speaker spoke in favor of the bill:

Joel McKie, Georgia Vocational Agricultural Teachers Association

**HEARING ONLY**

**HB 425 (Rep. Joyce Chandler, 105th, LC 33 6989S) Elementary and secondary education; administration of standardized assessments in paper-and-pencil format upon parental request; provide**

Rep. Chandler (105th) presented the bill. She spoke on how the bill does not state the right to refuse testing.

Sen. Millar (40th) asked if there is a statute to allow parents to opt out of testing.

Sen. Parent (42nd) asked how parents opt out of testing. She then asked if the bill specifically deals with standardized tests.

Sen. James (35th) asked if students made up excuses to not be at school on testing days.

Sen. Parent (42nd) asked if we have enough staff.

Sen. Millar (40th) commented that the bill passed 104-15 in the House.

Guest speakers spoke in favor of the bill:

Jane Robbins, American Principles Project

Catherine Gibbs, White County Schools Teacher

**HEARING ONLY**

**HB 246 (Rep. Wes Cantrell, 22nd, LC 33 6847S) Elementary and secondary education; annual fitness assessment program; repeal sunset provision**

Rep. Cantrell (22nd) presented the bill. He spoke on childhood obesity rates, the removal of the sunset provision and how the Georgia SHAPE program is a model for other states.

Vice-Chairman Wilkinson (50th) voiced his concerns about tripping up the bill.

Sen. Millar (40th) asked for an explanation of what Georgia SHAPE is.

**HEARING ONLY**

**NOTE:** Sen. Tippins (37th) arrived at 2:49 p.m.

**HB 273 (Rep. Demetrius Douglas, 78th, LC 33 6989S) Quality Basic Education Act; daily recess for students in kindergarten and grades one through five; provide**

Rep. Douglas (78th) presented the bill. He spoke on how recess should not be taken away as a punishment, and that recess lowers bad behavior levels.

Sen. Parent (42nd) asked if recess can be withheld for discipline.

Sen. Millar (40th) asked if individual children could be punished with no recess.

Sen. Tippins (37th) asked Rep. Douglas (78th) to change some language for the next meeting.

**NOTE:** Sen. Black (8th) and Sen. Stone (23rd) left at 3:05 p.m.

Guest speakers spoke in support of the bill:

Olda Jarrett, Georgia State University Professor

Margaret Ciccareli, Professional Association of Georgia Educators

Lisa Coronado, DeKalb Teachers Association

**HEARING ONLY**

**NOTE:** Sen. Parent (42nd) left at 3:11 p.m.

**HB 114 (Rep. Robert Dickey, 140th, LC 33 6966S) Move on When Ready Act; prohibit school systems from excluding students in dual credit courses from valedictorian or salutatorian determinations**

Rep. Dickey (140th) presented the bill. The bill requires schools to not exclude students in dual credit courses for valedictorian and/or salutatorian.

Sen. Tippins (37th) commented that the comparability of rigor between classes is a concern of his, but he is confident the issue will take care of itself.



Guest speaker spoke in support of the bill:  
Catherine Gibbs, White County Schools Teacher

**HEARING ONLY**

Per the discretion of the Chairman, he asked for the committee's will on the following legislation:

Chairman Tippins (37th) asked the will of the Committee on **HB 148 LC 33 6782**.  
Sen. Millar (40th) motioned **Do Pass**. Sen. James (35th) seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0). Sen. Tonya Anderson (43rd) will be the Senate sponsor.

**HB 148 DO PASS**

Chairman Tippins (37th) asked the will of the Committee on **HB 198 LC 33 7016S**.  
Sen. Wilkinson (50th) motioned **Do Pass**. Sen. Millar (40th) seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0). Sen. Wilkinson (50th) will be the Senate sponsor.

**HB 198 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE**

Chairman Tippins (37th) asked the will of the Committee on **HB 425 LC 33 6989S**.  
Sen. James (35th) motioned **Do Pass**. Sen. Brass (28th) seconded. The motion passed (4-1). Sen. James (35th), Sen. Brass (28th), Sen. Wilkinson (50th) and Sen. Millar (40th) voted yea. Sen. Sims (12th) voted nay. Sen. Millar (40th) will be the Senate sponsor.

**HB 425 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE**

Chairman Tippins (37th) asked the will of the Committee on **HB 437 LC 33 6971S**.  
Sen. Millar (40th) motioned **Do Pass**. Sen. Brass (28th) seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0). Sen. Wilkinson (50th) is the Senate sponsor.

**HB 437 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE**

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary

/s/ Samantha Nix, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND YOUTH**  
**March 15, 2017**

The Senate Committee on Education and Youth met on Wednesday, March 15, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. in room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building.

**SENATORS PRESENT**

Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th), Chairman  
Sen. John Wilkinson (50th), Vice-Chairman (Left early)  
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary (Left early)  
Sen. Ellis Black (8th) (Left early)  
Sen. Matt Brass (28th)  
Sen. Donzella James (35th)  
Sen. Fran Millar (40th)  
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd) (Arrived late)  
Sen. Jesse Stone (23rd) (Left early)  
Sen. Horacena Tate (38th) (Arrived late, left early)

Chairman Tippins (37th) called the meeting to order at 2:06 p.m.

**HB 338 (Rep. Kevin Tanner, 9th, LC 33 6968S) Education; system of supports and assistance for low-performing schools in the greatest need; provisions**

Rep. Tanner (9th) presented the bill. He told the Committee and attendees that the new substitute would be ready after all parties submitted their recommendations by 10:00 a.m. Friday, March 17, 2017.

**NOTE:** Sen. Parent (42nd) arrived at 2:08 p.m.

Sen. Parent (42nd) asked about funding.

Sen. James (35th) asked if the bill addressed the suspension of school board members.

**NOTE:** Sen. Tate (38th) arrived at 2:12 p.m.

**HB 114 (Rep. Robert Dickey, 140th, LC 33 6966S) Move on When Ready Act; prohibit school systems from excluding students in dual credit courses from valedictorian or salutatorian determinations**

Rep. Dickey (140th) presented the bill. He said that the bill gives school systems the flexibility to set criteria.

Sen. Millar (40th) asked about a weighted grade issue.

Sen. Millar (40th) made a motion **Do Pass**, and Sen. Stone (23rd) seconded. The motion passed unanimously (9-0). Sen. Tippins (37th) will be the Senate sponsor.

**HB 114 DO PASS**

**HB 246 (Rep. Wes Cantrell, 22nd, LC 33 6847S) Elementary and secondary education; annual fitness assessment program; repeal sunset provision**

Rep. Cantrell (22nd) presented the bill. He explained that this bill would remove the sunset provision for the Georgia SHAPE Act.

Sen. Millar (40th) made a motion **Do Pass**. Sen. Parent (42nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed (8-0). Sen. James (35th) was present but abstained from voting. Sen. Martin (9th) will be the Senate sponsor.

**HB 246 DO PASS**

**HB 224 (Rep. Dave Belton, 112th, HB 224/FA) Quality Basic Education Act; military student may attend any school in local system; provide**

Rep. Belton (112th) presented the bill. He spoke about how the bill deals with military students.

Sen. Parent (42nd) asked who determines if the space is available.

Sen. Brass (28th) made a motion **Do Pass**. Sen. Stone (23rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (9-0). Sen. Hill (6th) will be the Senate sponsor.

**HB 224 DO PASS**

**HB 463 (Rep. Katie Dempsey, 13th, LC 33 6946) Early Care and Learning, Department of; establish nonprofit corporation to qualify as a public foundation; authorize**

Rep. Dempsey (13th) presented the bill. She talked about how DECAL established a non-profit for extra funding.

Sen. Millar (40th) made a motion **Do Pass**. Sen. Parent (42nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (9-0). Sen. Wilkinson (50th) will be the Senate sponsor.

**HB 463 DO PASS**

**HB 273 (Rep. Demetrius Douglas, 78th, LC 33 6989S) Quality Basic Education Act; daily recess for students in kindergarten and grades one through five; provide**

Rep. Douglas (78th) presented the bill. He amended language from mandatory recess to a scheduled recess, as inclement weather and other situations naturally cancel recess.

**HEARING ONLY**

**HB 430 (Rep. Buzz Brockway, 102nd, LC 33 7031S) Governor's Education Reform Commission; charter schools; implement recommendations**

Rep. Brockway (102nd) presented the bill. He spoke on funding and redistribution.

Sen. Millar (40th) asked if all recommendations came from the charter school commission.

Sen. Parent (42nd) asked if this authorizes all public schools.

**NOTE:** Sen. Wilkinson (50th) left the meeting at 2:37 p.m.

Guest speakers spoke in favor of the bill:

Kelly McCutchen, Georgia Public Policy Federation

Cecily Harsch-Kinnane, Public Education Matters Georgia

Matt Underwood, Atlanta Neighborhood Charter Schools

Gavin Samms, Genesis Innovation Academy

Angela Palm, Department of Early Care and Learning

Cita Cook, Retired Educator

Patrick Rossiter, Tybee Island Maritime Academy

Andrew Lewis, Georgia Charter Schools Association

Ryan Mahoney, Excellence in Education

Lisa McDonald, Brighten Academy

Scot Hooper, Odyssey Charter School

Michael O'Sullivan, Georgia CAN

Mike Dudgean, ex-State Representative

Artesius Millar, Utopian Academy for the Arts

Hannah Heck, Westside Atlanta Charter School

**HEARING ONLY**

**NOTE:** Sen. Black (8th) left at 2:52 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Stone (23rd) left at 3:00 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Sims (12th) left at 3:09 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Tate (38th) left at 3:13 p.m.

Chairman Tippins (37th) adjourned the meeting at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th), Chairman

/s/ Samantha Nix, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND YOUTH**  
**March 20, 2017**

The Senate Committee on Education and Youth met on Monday, March 20, 2017, at 2:00 p.m. in room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building.

**SENATORS PRESENT**

Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th), Chairman  
Sen. John Wilkinson (50th), Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary (Arrived late)  
Sen. Ellis Black (8th)  
Sen. Matt Brass (28th)  
Sen. Donzella James (35th)  
Sen. Fran Millar (40th)  
Sen. Jesse Stone (23rd) (Left early)  
Sen. Horacena Tate (38th) (Arrived late)

**NOTE:** Sen. Elena Parent (42nd) was absent.

Chairman Tippins (37th) called the meeting to order at 2:08 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Tate (38th) arrived at 2:09 p.m.

**HB 338 (Rep. Kevin Tanner, 9th, LC 33 6968S) Education; system of supports and assistance for low-performing schools in the greatest need; provisions**

Rep. Tanner (9th) presented the bill. He spoke on the advisory council created by the bill, changes to the collaborative initiative and the turn-around coaches.

**NOTE:** Sen. Sims (12th) arrived at 2:12 p.m.

Chairman Tippins (37th) commented that the term “failing schools” was changed to “low-performing schools.”

Sen. James (35th) asked for a fiscal note. Rep. Tanner (9th) explained that no fiscal note was needed because of appropriations already put into place.

Sen. Stone (23rd) commented that he does not support the limitation on individuals for the coach positions.

Sen. Brass (28th) made a motion to adopt amendment 1. Sen. Sims (12th) seconded the motion. The motion passed (5-3). Sen. Brass (28th), Sen. Wilkinson (50th), Sen. Tate (38th), Sen. Sims (12th) and Sen. James (35th) voted yea. Sen. Black (8th), Sen. Millar (40th) and Sen. Stone (23rd) voted nay.

**NOTE:** Sen. Stone (23rd) left at 2:27 p.m.

Sen. Brass (28th) made a motion to adopt amendment 2. Sen. Sims (12th) seconded the motion. The motion passed (5-2). Sen. Black (8th), Sen. Brass (28th), Sen. Millar (40th), Sen. Sims (12th) and Sen. Wilkinson (50th) voted yea. Sen. Tate (38th) and Sen. James (35th) voted nay.

Sen. Millar (40th) made a motion **Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Sims (12th) seconded the motion. The motion passed (5-2). Sen. Black (8th), Brass (28th), Sen. Millar (40th), Sen. Sims (12th) and Sen. Wilkinson (50th) voted yea. Sen. Tate (38th) and Sen. James (35th) voted nay. Sen. Tippins (37th) will be the Senate sponsor.

**HB 338 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE LC 33 7058S**

Chairman Tippins (37th) adjourned the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary

/s/ Samantha Nix, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND YOUTH**  
**March 22, 2017**

The Senate Committee on Education and Youth met on Wednesday, March 22, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. in room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building.

**SENATORS PRESENT**

Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th), Chairman  
Sen. John Wilkinson (50th), Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary  
Sen. Ellis Black (8th)  
Sen. Matt Brass (28th)  
Sen. Fran Millar (40th)  
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd)

**NOTE:** Sen. Donzella James (35th), Sen. Jesse Stone (23rd) and Sen. Horacena Tate (38th) were absent.

Chairman Tippins (37th) called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

**HB 273 (Rep. Demetrius Douglas, 78th, LC 33 6989S) Quality Basic Education Act; daily recess for students in kindergarten and grades one through five; provide**

Rep. Douglas (78th) presented the bill. The bill encourages a thirty-minute recess.

Sen. Millar (40th) asked about monitoring the recommended thirty minutes.

Sen. Brass (28th) made a motion **Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Parent (42nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (6-0). Sen. Sims (12th) will be the Senate sponsor.

**HB 273 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE LC 33 7071S**

**HB 430 (Rep. Buzz Brockway, 102nd, LC 33 6982S) Governor's Education Reform Commission; charter schools; implement recommendations**

Rep. Brockway (102nd) presented the bill. He spoke on the changes made to unused buildings and local land use.

Sen. Millar (40th) asked if the facilities plan is a good balance of interest. He also asked if the Department of Education can help if a charter school needs a building.

Sen. Millar (40th) made a motion **Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Brass (28th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (6-0). Sen. Millar (40th) will be the Senate sponsor.

**HB 430 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE LC 33 7066S**



Chairman Tippins (37th) adjourned the meeting at 3:24 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary

/s/ Samantha Nix, Recording Secretary

March 23, 2017  
Mr. David Cook  
Secretary of the Senate  
State Capitol  
Atlanta, GA 30334

RE: Senate Education and Youth Committee – 2017 Session

Dear Secretary Cook:

The Senate Education and Youth Committee respectfully submits the following Senate bills, Senate resolutions, House bills and House resolutions left in the Senate Education and Youth committee after the 2017 General Assembly session:

SB24 SB26 SB68 SB76 SB77 SB83 SB97 SB98 SB150 SB151 SB181

SB203 SB243 SB253 SB260

Thank you.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lindsey Tippins". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Senator Lindsey Tippins

Chairman Senate Education and Youth

Samantha Nix

Legislative Assistant Senate Education and Youth