

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON REGULATED INDUSTRIES AND UTILITIES  
2017 MEMBERS**

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**Sen. Rick Jeffares (17th)**

Chairman

1300 Keys Ferry Ct.

McDonough, GA 30253

Phone: (678) 432-7676

Fax: (678) 432-5133

**Sen. Ed Harbison (15th)**

Ex-Officio

P. O. Box 1292

Columbus, GA 31902

Phone: (404) 656-0074

Fax: (404) 463-5547

**Sen. Frank Ginn (47th)**

Vice-Chairman

P.O. Box 1136

Danielsville, GA 30633

Phone: (706) 680-4466

**Sen. Steve Henson (41st)**

2643 Sterling Acres Drive

Tucker, GA 30084

Phone: (404) 243-5107

Fax: (678) 937-1672

**Sen. Josh McKoon (29th)**

Secretary

P.O. Box 2565

Columbus, GA 31902

Phone: (706) 442-9130

**Sen. Jack Hill (4th)**

P.O. Box 486

Reidsville, GA 30453

Phone: (912) 557-3811

Fax: (912) 557-3522

**Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th)**

P.O. Box 512

Athens, GA 30603

Phone: (706) 543-7700

Fax: (706) 543-7731

**Sen. John Kennedy (18th)**

231 Riverside Drive

Macon, GA 31201

Phone: (478) 749-9981

Fax: (478) 742-8720

**Sen. Steve Gooch (51st)**

P.O. Box 600

Dahlonega, GA 30533

Phone: (404) 656-9221

Fax: (404) 651-6768

**Sen. David Lucas, Sr. (26th)**

2594 Saratoga Drive

Macon, GA 31211

Phone: (478) 254-7600

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON REGULATED INDUSTRIES AND UTILITIES  
2017 MEMBERS**

*(Continued)*

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**Sen. Butch Miller (49th)**

2420 Browns Bridge Road  
Gainesville, GA 30504  
Phone: (404) 656-7454  
Fax: (404) 651-5795

**Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd)**

212 English Avenue  
Chickamauga, GA 30707  
Phone: (706) 375-1776

**Sen. David Shafer (48th)**

Ex-Officio  
P.O. Box 880  
Duluth, GA 30096  
Phone: (404) 497-0048

**Sen. Renee Unterman (45th)**

Ex-Officio  
P.O. Box 508  
Buford, GA 30518  
Phone: (404) 463-1368

**MINUTES OF  
THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON REGULATED INDUSTRIES AND UTILITIES  
January 30, 2017**

The Senate Committee on Regulated Industries and Utilities held a meeting on Monday, January 30, 2017, at 1:00 p.m. in Room 310 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building (CLOB). Members present were as follows:

Sen. Rick Jeffares (17th), Chairman  
Sen. Frank Ginn (47th), Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th)  
Sen. Steve Gooch (51st)  
Sen. Ed Harbison (15th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Steve Henson (41st)  
Sen. John Kennedy (18th)  
Sen. David Lucas, Sr. (26th)  
Sen. Butch Miller (49th)  
Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd)  
Sen. Renee Unterman (45th), Ex-Officio

**NOTE:** Sen. Josh McKoon (29th), Secretary, Sen. Jack Hill (4th), and Sen. David Shafer (48th), Ex-Officio, were absent.

Chairman Jeffares (17th) called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m., asking Sen. Miller (49th) to open with a prayer.

Chairman Jeffares (17th) asked for a motion on the adoption of Committee Rules. Sen. Ginn (47th) moved for the adoption of the Committee Rules as presented. Sen. Kennedy (18th) seconded the motion. The Committee Rules were adopted by a unanimous vote of 10-0. A copy of the Rules is attached.

**SB 85 (Sen. Rick Jeffares, 17th) Malt Beverages; provide for limited sale at retail by manufacturers**

Chairman Jeffares (17th) briefly explained the bill and introduced Nancy Palmer, Executive Director of the Georgia Craft Brewers Guild, and Martin Smith, representative of the Georgia Beer Wholesalers Association, to discuss the provisions of the bill.

Both Ms. Palmer and Mr. Smith addressed the Committee to explain how the legislation developed from last year. Mr. Smith and Ms. Palmer answered a series of questions from the Committee.

Chairman Jeffares (17th) asked if Commissioner Lynn Riley, Georgia Department of Revenue, was present, and asked the Commissioner to address the Committee if so desired.

Commissioner Riley addressed the Committee and stated that the department would be able to abide by provisions of the legislation and had no problems with it.

The Chairman recognized speakers Thomas Weaver and Daniel New, both from Atlanta, Georgia, and private citizens who signed up to address the Committee in favor of the bill.

Sen. Gooch (51st) made a motion **DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE**. Sen. Ginn (47th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 9-1, with Sen. Ginn (47th), Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Gooch (51st), Sen. Harbison (15th), Sen. Henson (41st), Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Lucas, Sr. (26th), Sen. Miller (49th), and Sen. Unterman (45th), voting YES, and Sen. Mullis (53rd) voting NO.

**SB 85 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE LC 36 3187S**

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

Respectfully submitted,

/ s / Sen. Rick Jeffares (17th), Chairman

/ s / C. Denese Sampson, Recording Secretary

**RULES OF  
THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON REGULATED INDUSTRIES AND UTILITIES  
2017-2018 Term**

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1. Quorum of the Committee shall be six (6) members.
2. The Chair shall determine which bills and resolutions are to be considered and the order in which said measures are considered.
3. The Chair 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.
4. The Committee shall convene, recess, put all questions, and adjourn upon the order of the Chair.
5. Any member or members of the Committee who disagree with the majority report of the Committee shall be privileged to file a minority report if they so desire.
6. These Rules may be amended upon a motion duly made and subsequently approved by two-thirds of the members of the Committee.
7. A bill, resolution, or other matter will be considered only after a presentation by its principal author or a legislator whom he or the Chairman designates to do so. In the event more than one member of the General Assembly has signed a measure, the principal author shall be the one whose name appears first in the list of authors.
8. Substitutes and amendments shall be provided to the Chairman at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the hearing. The Chairman reserves the right to delay action on any substitute or amendment not provided in advance.
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 REGULATED INDUSTRIES AND UTILITIES  
February 9, 2017**

The Senate Committee on Regulated Industries and Utilities held a meeting on Thursday, February 9, 2017, at 1:00 p.m. in Room 310 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building (CLOB). Members present were as follows:

Sen. Rick Jeffares (17th), Chairman  
Sen. Frank Ginn (47th), Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Josh McKoon (29th), Secretary  
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th)  
Sen. Steve Gooch (51st)  
Sen. Steve Henson (41st) (*arrived late*)  
Sen. John Kennedy (18th)  
Sen. David Lucas, Sr. (26th)  
Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd)  
Sen. Renee Unterman (45th), Ex-Officio

**NOTE:** Sen. Ed Harbison (15th), Ex-Officio, Sen. Jack Hill (4th), Sen. Butch Miller (49th), and Sen. David Shafer (48th), Ex-Officio, were absent.

Chairman Jeffares (17th) called the meeting to order at 1:09 p.m., asking Pastor Steve McFall, Senior Pastor of Central Baptist Church in Douglasville, Georgia, to open with a prayer.

**SB 88 (Sen. Jeff Mullis, 53rd) 'Narcotic Treatment Programs Enforcement Act'**

Chairman Jeffares (17th) introduced Sen. Mullis (53rd) to explain the bill. Sen. Mullis (53rd) thanked Sen. Unterman (45th) for her work on the legislation as well, and was accompanied by Josh Mackey, representative for the Opioid Treatment Centers of Georgia, who was available to answer questions from the Committee.

The Chairman asked if there were questions, and recognized Sen. Cowsert (46th) and Sen. Unterman (45th) for a series of questions.

**NOTE:** Sen. Henson (41st) arrived at 1:12 p.m.

Sen. Unterman (45th) made a motion **DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE**. Sen. Ginn (47th) seconded the motion.

Chairman Jeffares (17th) suspended final vote on the bill to recognize Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Unterman (45th), and Sen. McKoon (29th) for further questions, which Mr. McKay and Sen. Mullis (53rd) answered.

Chairman Jeffares (17th) reaffirmed the **DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE** motion made by Sen. Unterman (45th) and seconded by Sen. Ginn (47th). The motion passed by vote of 7-2, with Sen. Ginn (47th), Sen. Gooch (51st), Sen. Henson (41st), Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Lucas (26th), Sen. Mullis (53rd), and Sen. Unterman (45th) voting YES, and Sen. Cowsert (46th) and Sen. McKoon (29th) voting NO.

### **SB 88 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE LC 37 2334S**

#### **SB 79 (Sen. Brandon Beach, 21st) 'Destination Resort Act'; licensing of up to two destination resorts in this state; authorize**

Chairman Jeffares (17th) recognized Sen. Beach (21st) to explain the bill. Sen. Beach (21st) thoroughly reviewed the bill, highlighting particular lines within the bill and offered to answer any questions from the Committee. The Chairman recognized Committee members for a series of questions.

In particular, Sen. Gooch (51st) asked about the accompanying constitutional amendment, which was not available, stating that he would feel better if it were being presented along with the bill, and stated his concern about the impact on the Georgia World Congress Center.

Sen. Beach (21st) responded that he was in fact working on the constitutional amendment, and believed the Georgia World Congress Center would be positively impacted by the legislation.

Sen. Beach (21st) continued to answer questions from the Committee, and was accompanied by Erik Balsbaugh, Vice President of Public Affairs for the American Gaming Association, who was available to answer questions from the Committee.

Chairman Jeffares (17th) stated that the Committee would not vote on the bill and would hold a follow-up meeting on an undisclosed date to further address the legislation. The Chairman also expressed his desire to not allow the Committee proceedings to overlap into the next Committee meeting scheduled, and asked all speakers to please limit their comments to less than five minutes.

Chairman Jeffares (17th) recognized A. J. Robison, President of the Central Atlanta Progress Atlanta Downtown Improvement District, who spoke in favor of the legislation and answered questions from the Committee. Michael McPherson, representative of the Georgia Municipal Association (GMA), was also recognized to speak in favor of the bill.

Chairman Jeffares (17th) recognized Mike Griffin, Public Affairs Representative for the Georgia Baptist Mission Board, to address the Committee in opposition to the bill. Mr. Griffin was accompanied by several pastors and members of the Georgia Baptist Mission Board, who were willing to address the Committee.

The Chairman thanked Committee members and members of the audience for their input and participation. This was a hearing only.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/ s / Sen. Josh McKoon (29th), Secretary

/ s / C. Denese Sampson, Recording Secretary



**MINUTES OF  
THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON REGULATED INDUSTRIES AND UTILITIES  
February 16, 2017**

The Senate Committee on Regulated Industries and Utilities held a meeting on Thursday, February 16, 2017, at 1:00 p.m. in Room 310 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building (CLOB). Members present were as follows:

Sen. Rick Jeffares (17th), Chairman  
Sen. Frank Ginn (47th), Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Steve Gooch (51st)  
Sen. Jack Hill (4th) (*arrived late*)  
Sen. John Kennedy (18th)  
Sen. Butch Miller (49th)  
Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd) (*arrived late*)  
Sen. Renee Unterman (45th), Ex Officio

**NOTE:** Sen. Josh McKoon (29th), Secretary, Sen. Bill Cowsert, (46th), Sen. Ed Harbison (15th), Ex-Officio, Sen. Steve Henson (41st), Sen. David Lucas, Sr. (26th), and Sen. David Shafer (48th), Ex-Officio, were absent.

Chairman Jeffares (17th) called the meeting to order at 1:20 p.m.

**SB 140 (Sen. Butch Miller, 49th) Division of Low-voltage Contractors; require continuing education; authorize**

Chairman Jeffares (17th) confirmed LC 36 3151 as the correct version of the bill and, to explain the bill, recognized Sen. Miller (49th), who was accompanied by J. Westbrook, Division Chief/Fire Marshall from Marietta, Georgia. Dan Gordon, owner of Gordon Security, also accompanied Sen. Miller (49th) and answered questions from the Committee.

**NOTE:** Sen. Hill (4th) and Sen. Mullis (53rd) arrived at 1:21 p.m.

After lengthy discussion, Chairman Jeffares (17th) asked if there were any other questions. There were none.

Sen. Mullis (53rd) made a motion **DO PASS**. Sen. Ginn (47th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

### **SB 140 DO PASS**

#### **SB 141 (Sen. Bruce Thompson, 14th) Carnival Ride Safety; engineering evaluation with a carnival ride permit application; require**

Chairman Jeffares (17th) confirmed LC 36 3221 as the correct version and recognized Sen. Thompson (14th) to explain the bill.

Sen. Thompson (14th) was accompanied by Fire Chief Dwayne Garriss, State Fire Marshall and Chief of the Georgia Safety Fire Commissioner's Office, and Lindsay Scott, Legislative Liaison for the Georgia Office of Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner. Chief Marshall addressed the Committee and answered questions from Committee members.

Sen. Ginn (47th) made a motion **DO PASS**. Sen. Hill (4th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

### **SB 141 DO PASS**

#### **SB 147 (Sen. Michael Williams, 27th) Cemetery and Funeral Services; unitrust distribution method provisions; permit a cemetery to request a trustee**

Chairman Jeffares (17th) confirmed LC 36 3207 as the correct version of the bill and recognized Sen. Williams (27th) to address the Committee.

Sen. Williams (27th) was accompanied by Trip Martin of the Georgia Link Public Affairs Group, who was available to answer any questions from the Committee.

Sen. Ginn (47th) made a motion **DO PASS**. Sen. Mullis (53rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

### **SB 147 DO PASS**

#### **SB 116 (Sen. Frank Ginn, 47th) Counties and Municipal Corporations; assessment of storm-water utility fees on water-neutral properties; prohibit**

Chairman Jeffares (17th) recognized Sen. Ginn (47th) to address the Committee, affirming that the bill would not be voted on at the present time. Sen. Ginn (47th) explained the bill and thanked the Chairman and Committee members for their time and attention.

Sen. Ginn (47th) was accompanied by Kenneth Shealy of Athens/Clark County, Georgia, who is the constituent who brought the issue to the Senator's attention, and Dr. Phil Munro, a Georgia civil engineer, who both answered a series of questions from Committee members.

Chairman Jeffares (17th) recognized Frank Norton of Gainesville, Georgia, who spoke in favor of the bill.

Chairman Jeffares (17th) recognized speakers who signed up to speak in opposition to the bill, and reminded speakers that the bill would not be voted on at the present time. Speakers were recognized in the following order:

Michael McPherson, Georgia Municipal Association (GMA)  
Dr. Dan Skalsky, Roswell Public Works  
Dr. Brant D. Keller, Griffin Public Works

Chairman Jeffares (17th) asked if presentations for SB 116 would halt momentarily to allow the Committee to vote on another bill, SR 224 (Ginn, 47th), before quorum was lost.

**SR 224 (Sen. Frank Ginn, 47th) Joint Study Committee on Storm-Water Management Fees; create**

Chairman Jeffares (17th) confirmed LC 40 1421 as the correct version of the bill and asked for a motion.

Sen. Kennedy (18th) made a motion **DO PASS**. Sen. Miller (49th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

**SR 224 DO PASS**

**SB 116 (Sen. Ginn, 47th) (*continued*)**

Chairman Jeffares (17th) asked Mr. Keller to continue with his presentation. At the conclusion of his presentation, the Chairman asked if there were any further questions, and recognized Sen. Gooch (51st) for a series of questions.

Chairman Jeffares (17th) recognized Kathleen Bowen, representative for the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG), to address the Committee in opposition to

the bill. Mrs. Bowen was accompanied by Mike Thomas, General Manager of the Clayton County Water Authority, and Steve Leo, Director of Permitting and Regulatory Services for Gwinnett County Water Resources.

Mrs. Bowen stated that ACCG opposed the bill, but hopes for continued dialogue during the interim to make it better. All three participants answered a series of questions from the Committee.

Chairman Jeffares (17th) thanked everyone for their participation, and specifically noted that he would like to appoint Mike Thomas to serve on a study committee if one is appointed.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/ s / Sen. Rick Jeffares (17th), Chairman

/ s / C. Denese Sampson, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF  
THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON REGULATED INDUSTRIES AND UTILITIES  
February 27, 2017**

The Senate Committee on Regulated Industries and Utilities held a meeting on Monday, February 27, 2017, at 1:00 p.m. in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building (CLOB). Members present were as follows:

Sen. Rick Jeffares (17th), Chairman  
Sen. Frank Ginn (47th), Vice-Chairman (*arrived late*)  
Sen. Josh McKoon (29th), Secretary  
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th) (*arrived late*)  
Sen. Steve Gooch (51st)  
Sen. Ed Harbison (15th), Ex-Officio (*arrived late*)  
Sen. Steve Henson (41st) (*arrived late*)  
Sen. Jack Hill (4th) (*arrived late*)  
Sen. John Kennedy (18th) (*arrived late*)  
Sen. David Lucas, Sr. (26th)  
Sen. Butch Miller (49th)  
Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd)  
Sen. David Shafer (48th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Renee Unterman (45th), Ex-Officio

Chairman Jeffares (17th) called the meeting to order at 2:06 p.m., asking Sen. Miller (49th) to open with a prayer.

**NOTE:** Sen. Hill (4th) arrived at 2:07 p.m.

**SB 226 (Sen. Butch Miller, 49th) Alcoholic Beverages; regulations; provisions; annual production requirements for Georgia farm wineries; change**

Chairman Jeffares (17th) confirmed LC 36 3320S as the substitute version and asked Sen. Miller (49th) to present the bill from his seat at the Committee desk.

The Chairman asked if there were any questions. There were none.

Sen. Unterman (45th) made a motion **DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE**. Sen. Gooch (51st) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 8-0.

**SB 226 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE LC 36 3320S**

**SB 244 (Sen. Rick Jeffares, 17th) Telephone System for the Physically Impaired; establishment, administration and operation of state-wide dual party relay service; provisions; change**

Chairman Jeffares (17th) confirmed LC 36 3139 as the correct version of the bill and recognized James E. “Jett” Toney of Cornerstone Communications Group, to answer any questions about the bill.

**NOTE:** Sen. Henson (41st) arrived at 2:11 p.m.

The Chairman asked if there were any questions, and recognized Sen. Unterman (45th) for a question.

**NOTE:** Sen. Kennedy (18th) arrived at 2:14 p.m.

Chairman Jeffares (17th) and Mr. Toney continued answering a series of questions from the Committee.

**NOTE:** Sen. Cowsert (46th) arrived at 2:17 p.m.

After lengthy discussion about changing the language of the bill, Sen. Unterman (45th) offered an amendment, affecting line 103.

Sen. Unterman (45th) moved for the adoption of the amendment. Sen. Shafer (48th) seconded the motion. The amendment passed by a vote of 8-3, with Sen. McKoon (29th), Sen. Hill (4th), Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Lucas (26th), Sen. Miller (49th), Sen. Mullis (53rd), Sen. Shafer (48th), and Sen. Unterman (45th) voting YES and Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Gooch (51st), and Sen. Henson (41st) voting NO.

Sen. Shafer (48th) made a motion **DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE**. Sen. Unterman (45th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 8-3, with Sen. McKoon (29th), Sen. Hill (4th), Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Lucas (26th), Sen. Miller (49th), Sen. Mullis (53rd), Sen. Shafer (48th), and Sen. Unterman (45th) voting YES and Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Gooch (51st), and Sen. Henson (41st) voting NO.

**SB 244 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE LC 36 3348S**

**SB 222 (Sen. John Kennedy, 18th) 'Local Government 9-1-1 Authority Act'; Local Government 9-1-1 Authority; create**

Chairman Jeffares (17th) confirmed LC 28 8368ER as the correct version and recognized Sen. Kennedy (18th) to speak to the bill.

Sen. Kennedy (18th) was accompanied by Debra Nesbitt, representative for the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG), who distributed information on a proposed amendment.

**NOTE:** Sen. Harbison (15th) arrived at 2:24 p.m.

Chairman Jeffares (17th) recognized Sen. McKoon (29th), Sen. Gooch (51st), Sen. Harbison (15th), and Sen. Unterman (45th) for a series of questions, which Mrs. Nesbitt answered.

The Chairman stated that several speakers signed up to address the Committee in favor of the bill, and recognized Kevin Curtin, Assistant Vice President of Legislative Affairs for AT&T, to speak.

**NOTE:** Sen. Ginn (47th) arrived at 2:29 p.m.

Mr. Curtin answered a series of questions from Committee members.

Sen. Henson (41st) made a motion **DO PASS**. Sen. McKoon (29th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 13-0.

### **SB 222 DO PASS**

**SB 232 (Sen. Steve Gooch, 51st) "Facilitating Internet Broadband Rural Expansion (FIBRE) Act"; enact**

Chairman Jeffares (17th) confirmed LC 36 3302 as the correct version and recognized Sen. Gooch (51st) to address the bill, noting that the bill would not be voted on at the present time.

Sen. Gooch (51st) explained the origin of the bill, and invited the Committee to take a closer look at the growing problem of broadband accessibility in rural areas of the state. He expressed his understanding that no vote would be taken at the present time because the legislation still needed work, but hoped the bill would allow local and state governments time to develop a strategy to address the issue.

Chairman Jeffares (17th) thanked Sen. Gooch (51st) for his work on the bill and for presenting it to the Committee.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/ s / Sen. Josh McKoon (29th), Secretary

/ s / C. Denese Sampson, Recording Secretary



**MINUTES OF  
THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON REGULATED INDUSTRIES AND UTILITIES  
March 6, 2017**

The Senate Committee on Regulated Industries and Utilities held a meeting on Monday, March 6, 2017, at 1:00 p.m. in Room 310 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building (CLOB). Members present were as follows:

Sen. Rick Jeffares (17th), Chairman  
Sen. Frank Ginn (47th), Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th) (*arrived late*)  
Sen. Steve Gooch (51st)  
Sen. Ed Harbison (15th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Steve Henson (41st) (*arrived late*)  
Sen. Jack Hill (4th) (*arrived late*)  
Sen. John Kennedy (18th)  
Sen. Butch Miller (49th) (*arrived late*)  
Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd)

**NOTE:** Sen. Josh McKoon (29th), Secretary, Sen. David Lucas, Sr. (26th), Sen. David Shafer (48th), Ex-Officio, and Sen. Renee Unterman (45th), Ex-Officio, were absent.

Chairman Jeffares (17th) called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m., asking Sen. Kennedy (18th) to open with a prayer.

**HB 41 (Rep. Brett Harrell, 106th) Architects; allow certain students to take examination; change qualifications**

Chairman Jeffares (17th) confirmed LC 36 3192S as the correct version and introduced Rep. Brett Harrell (106th) to explain the bill.

**NOTE:** Sen. Henson (41st) arrived at 1:07 p.m.

Rep. Harrell (106th) explained that the bill derived from a clear need for architectural students in Georgia. He further stated that the bill passed the House of Representatives unanimously, and offered to answer any questions.

**NOTE:** Sen. Hill (4th) and Sen. Cowsert (46th) arrived at 1:10 p.m.

The Chairman asked if there were questions, and recognized Sen. Harbison (15th) for one question.

Sen. Mullis (53rd) made a motion **DO PASS**. Sen. Harbison (15th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 8-0. Sen. Michael Williams (27th) will be the Senate sponsor.

### **HB 41 DO PASS**

**SB 256 (Sen. Blake Tillery, 19th) State Properties Commission; enter into leases in certain rural technology lease eligible counties; wireless service; without submission to the General Assembly for approval; authorize**

Chairman Jeffares (17th) confirmed LC 36 3325 as the correct version and asked Sen. Blake Tillery (19th) to explain the bill, reminding him that the presentation is for hearing only.

Sen. Tillery (19th) addressed the Committee and briefly explained the bill, stating his acknowledgement that the bill needed more work, and offered appreciation to the Chairman and the Committee for hearing the bill.

Chairman Jeffares (17th) asked if there were any questions, and recognized Sen. Cowser (46th) for one question.

### **SB 256 HEARING ONLY**

**HB 260 (Rep. Alan Powell, 32nd) Special license plates; Georgia Electric Membership Corporation; establish**

Chairman Jeffares (17th) confirmed LC 39 1593S as the correct version and asked Rep. Alan Powell (32nd) to address the Committee.

Rep. Powell (32nd) explained the origin of the bill, and that it would impact the Grady Hospital Burn Center.

The Chairman asked if there were questions. There were none.

Sen. Ginn (47th) made a motion **DO PASS**. Sen. Mullis (53rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 8-0. Sen. Steve Gooch (51st) will be the Senate sponsor.

### **HB 260 DO PASS**

**HB 39 (Rep. Alan Powell, 32nd) Real estate professionals; disciplinary actions and sanctions; change certain provisions**

Rep. Powell (32nd) confirmed LC 36 3130 as the correct version of the bill, which had been requested by the Georgia Real Estate and Appraisers Board to ensure that law-abiding citizens were protected.

**NOTE:** Sen. Miller (49th) arrived at 1:13 p.m.

Sen. Hill (4th) moved **DO PASS**. Sen. Harbison (15th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 9-0. Sen. Miller (49th) will be the Senate sponsor.

**HB 39 DO PASS**

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

Respectfully submitted,

/ s / Sen. Rick Jeffares (17th), Chairman

/ s / C. Denese Sampson, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF  
THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON REGULATED INDUSTRIES AND UTILITIES  
March 13, 2017**

The Senate Committee on Regulated Industries and Utilities held a meeting on Monday, March 13, 2017, at 1:00 p.m. in Room 310 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building (CLOB). Members present were as follows:

Sen. Rick Jeffares (17th), Chairman  
Sen. Frank Ginn (47th), Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th) (*arrived late*)  
Sen. Ed Harbison (15th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Steve Henson (41st) (*arrived late*) (*left early*)  
Sen. David Lucas, Sr. (26th) (*arrived late*)  
Sen. Butch Miller (49th)  
Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd)  
Sen. David Shafer (48th), Ex-Officio (*arrived late*)  
Sen. Renee Unterman (45th), Ex-Officio (*left early*)

**NOTE:** Sen. Josh McKoon (29th), Secretary, Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Sen. Jack Hill (4th), and Sen. John Kennedy (18th) were absent.

Chairman Jeffares (17th) called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

**HB 205 (Rep. John Meadows, 5th) Mining and drilling; regulate exploration and extraction of gas and oil; provisions**

Chairman Jeffares (17th) confirmed LC 40 1449ERS as the correct version and recognized Rep. Meadows (5th) to address the Committee.

Rep. Meadows (5th) thanked the Committee and stated that he was waiting on a map connected to the bill, but would go ahead and explain the bill without using the map. The representative explained “fracking” as it relates to mining and drilling, and reviewed various lines within the bill.

Chairman Jeffares (17th) offered the following amendment: Deleting section (3) beginning on line 233 and inserting: “Provisions providing for the mandatory disclosure of the contents of fluids used in hydraulic fracturing projects to the director and to the commissioner of public health, and a fair process for the disclosure of fracturing fluids to facilitate transparency, while protecting valuable trade secrets and allowing well owners, operators, and service companies to protect their right to obtain an advantage over competitors:”.

**NOTE:** Sen. Henson (41st) arrived at 1:09 p.m.

Rep. Meadows continued with explanation of the bill, and expressed his support of the amendment offered by Chairman Jeffares (17th).

**NOTE:** Sen. Lucas, Sr. (26th) arrived at 1:11 p.m.

Chairman Jeffares (17th) recognized Sen. Ginn (47th) and Sen. Harbison (15th) for questions, which Rep. Meadows (5th) answered.

The Chairman asked Sen. Miller (49th) to explain the offered amendment, and stated that a correction should be made placing a semi colon at the end of the amendment.

Rep. Meadows (5th) stated that the bill is designated for one thing only, fracking, and that he had no reason to believe that it would impact what we call “mining.”

Chairman Jeffares (17th) recognized one person signed up to address the Committee: Hunter Hopkins, a representative of the American Petroleum Institute, who offered Rep. Meadows (5th) a number of changes to the bill.

Chairman Jeffares thanked Mr. Hopkins for addressing the Committee.

The Chairman asked for a motion on the amendment. Sen. Sen. Mullis (53rd) made a motion to adopt the amendment presented by Chairman Jeffares as presented. Sen. Ginn (47th) seconded the motion. The amendment was unanimously adopted.

Sen. Mullis (53rd) made a motion **DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE**. Sen. Ginn (47th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 7-0. Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd) will be the Senate sponsor.

### **HB 205 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE LC 36 3380ERS**

**NOTE:** Sen. Cowsert (46th) arrived at 1:22 p.m.

### **HB 428 (Rep. Chuck Martin, 49th) Downtown development authorities; authorize assessments**

Chairman Jeffares (17th) confirmed LC 44 0325 as the correct version and recognized Rep. Martin (49th) to address the Committee. The Chairman also stated that the bill would not be voted on at the present time.

The Chairman recognized Sen. Henson (41st) for a question, with Rep. Martin (49th) answering. Sen. Henson (41st) asked a follow-up question for clarification, regarding paragraph one of the bill.

Chairman Jeffares (17th) thanked Rep. Martin (49th) for addressing the Committee. This was a hearing only.

**HB 469 (Rep. Jason Shaw, 176th) Motor vehicle franchise practices; provide for definitions; provisions**

Chairman Jeffares (17th) confirmed LC 39 1643ERS as the correct version and recognized Rep. Shaw (176th) to explain the bill. The Chairman also stated that the bill would not be voted on at the present time.

Rep. Shaw (176th) stated the House of Representatives made a couple of house cleaning changes to the legislation, which has resulted in all parties being in agreement on this version of the bill.

Chairman Jeffares (17th) recognized Sen. Ginn (47th), Sen. Miller (49th), and Sen. Cowser (46th), for questions, which Rep. Shaw (176th) answered. He was accompanied by Bill Morie, representative for the Georgia Automobile Dealers Association, and Rusty Sewell, representative for the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers, to answer some of the questions.

Chairman Jeffares (17th) recognized Sen. Miller (49th) to further explain the process from a professional/industry perspective.

The Chairman asked if there were any other questions. There were none and Chairman Jeffares (17th) thanked everyone for their participation. This was a hearing only.

**HB 475 (Rep. Buddy Harden, 148th) Charitable solicitations; use of collection receptacles for donations; implement additional requirements**

Chairman Jeffares (17th) confirmed LC 41 1132S as the correct version and recognized Rep. Harden (148th) to explain the bill. The Chairman also stated that the bill would not be voted on at the present time.

Rep. Harden (148th) briefly explained that local mayors of many Georgia cities have experienced similar problems with unsightly public nuisances, and that therefore many mayors support the bill and its passage.

**NOTE:** Sen. Shafer (48th) arrived at 1:37 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Unterman (45th) left the meeting at 1:39 p.m.

Rep. Harden (148th) stated that this bill presents a win-win situation for all parties involved; he encountered one young woman coming into meeting who has concerns that he would like to address.

**NOTE:** Sen. Henson (41st) left the meeting at 1:40 p.m.

Chairman Jeffares (17th) recognized Ann Mintz, representative of the United Way, who addressed her concerns for the bill, to which Rep. Harden (148th) responded.

The Chairman recognized Sen. Ginn (47th) for one final question, which Rep. Harden (148th) answered, and thanked the Representative for his presentation. This was a hearing only.

**HB 510 (Calvin Smyre, 135th) Alcoholic beverages; population and measurement of certain distances; repeal certain provisions**

Chairman Jeffares (17th) confirmed LC 36 3321 as the correct version and recognized Rep. Smyre (135th) to explain the bill. The Chairman also stated that the bill would not be voted on at the present time.

Rep. Smyre (135th) thanked the Committee and stated that the bill was brought to him by Muscogee County officials, the county that he represents, with the purpose of eliminating population clauses for Muscogee County. This measure would allow them to be under the same measurement as all other surrounding Georgia counties.

Chairman Jeffares (17th) asked if there were any questions, and recognized Sen. Lucas, Sr. (26th) for one question, to which Rep. Smyre (135th) responded. The Chairman thanked the Representative for his presentation. This was a hearing only.

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

Respectfully submitted,

/ s / Sen. Rick Jeffares (17th), Chairman

/ s / C. Denese Sampson, Recording Secretary



**MINUTES OF  
THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON REGULATED INDUSTRIES AND UTILITIES  
March 16, 2017**

The Senate Committee on Regulated Industries and Utilities held a meeting on Thursday, March 16, 2017, at 1:00 p.m. in Room 310 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building (CLOB). Members present were as follows:

Sen. Rick Jeffares (17th), Chairman  
Sen. Frank Ginn (47th), Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th) (*arrived late*)  
Sen. Ed Harbison (15th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Steve Henson (41st) (*arrived late*)  
Sen. David Lucas, Sr. (26th)  
Sen. Renee Unterman (45th), Ex-Officio (*arrived late*)(*left early*)

**NOTE:** Sen. Josh McKoon (29th), Secretary, Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Sen. Jack Hill (4th), Sen. John Kennedy (18th), Sen. Butch Miller (49th), Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd), and Sen. David Shafer (48th), Ex-Officio, were absent.

Chairman Jeffares (17th) called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m., announcing that he would get started with the “hearing only” portion of the meeting, despite not having a quorum.

**HB 413 (Rep. Don Parsons, 44th) Public utilities; regulation of certain matters pertaining to rural telephone cooperatives; provisions**

The Chairman recognized Rep. Don Parsons (44th) to address the Committee.

Rep. Parsons (44th) briefly explained the origin of the bill, which has some clean-up language; more specifically, section 3 includes clean-up language regarding actions by the board of directors.

Chairman Jeffares (17th) recognized Sen. Lucas, Sr. (26th) for a question, which Rep. Parsons (44th) answered. Rep. Parsons (44th) invited Adam Wise, representative of the Georgia Telecommunications Association, to better answer the question posed by Sen. Lucas, Sr. (26th).

The Chairman asked if there were any other questions. There were none. Chairman Jeffares (17th) thanked Rep. Parsons (44th) for his presentation. This was a hearing only.

**HB 485 (Rep. Mike Glanton, 75th) Distilled spirits; referendum election be held prior to issuance of licenses to manufacture; remove requirement**

Chairman Jeffares (17th) recognized Rep. Glanton (75th) to address the Committee. He acknowledged that the bill was passed by the House as a substitute, briefly explaining how the bill changes current law.

The Chairman asked if there were any questions, and recognized Sen. Lucas, Sr. (26th) for a question, to which Rep. Glanton (75th) responded. The Chairman also recognized Sen. Ginn (47th) for a question.

**NOTE:** Sen. Unterman (45th) arrived at 1:38 p.m.

Chairman Jeffares (17th) asked if there were further questions. There were none. The Chairman thanked Rep. Glanton (75th) for his presentation. This was a hearing only.

**HB 118 (Rep. Trey Kelley, 16th) Fantasy Contests Act; enact**

Chairman Jeffares (17th) confirmed LC 43 0586ERS as the correct substitute version of the bill and recognized Rep. Kelley (16th) to address the Committee.

Rep. Kelley (16th) thanked the Committee and briefly explained the components of the bill.

**NOTE:** Sen. Henson (41st) arrived at 1:42 p.m.

Rep. Kelley (16th) made a statement about the opinion and actions of the Attorney General of Georgia in regards to the bill.

Chairman Jeffares (17th) asked if there were any questions, and recognized Sen. Henson (41st) for a question. The Chairman asked if there were any follow-up questions. There were none. The Chairman thanked the Representative for his presentation. This was a hearing only.

**HB 469 (Rep. Jason Shaw, 176th) Motor vehicle franchise practices; provide for definitions; provisions**

Chairman Jeffares (17th) confirmed LC 39 1675ERS as the correct substitute version of the bill and recognized Rep. Jason Shaw (176th) to address the Committee.

**NOTE:** Sen. Cowsert (46th) arrived at 1:44 p.m.

The Chairman asked if there were any questions from the Committee. There were none.

Sen. McKoon (29th) made a motion **DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE**. Sen. Harbison (15th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 6-0. Sen. Gooch (51st) will be the Senate sponsor.

**HB 469 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE LC 39 1675ERS**

**HB 475 (Rep. Buddy Harden, 148th) Charitable solicitations; use of collection receptacles for donations; implement additional requirements**

Chairman Jeffares (17th) confirmed LC 44 0468S as the correct substitute version of the bill and recognized Rep. Buddy Harden (148th) to address the Committee and briefly explain the bill.

Rep. Harden (148th) explained that the bill defined receptacles and unattended chambers for donating clothing and household goods.

Sen. Henson (41st) made a motion **DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE**. Sen. Harbison (15th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 6-0. Sen. Larry Walker III (20th) will be the Senate sponsor.

**HB 475 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE LC 44 0468S**

Chairman Jeffares (17th) went back to allowing persons who signed up to address the Committee on HB 118 (Kelley, 19th), recognizing Mike Griffin, Public Affairs Representative for the Georgia Baptist Mission Board, to address the Committee. Mr. Griffin approached, with four people accompanying him: Dave Baker, Tonya Diddy, Cory Lawrence, and Professor Brian Kent. Mr. Griffin distributed materials to the Committee for review in support of his opposition to the bill.

Mike Griffin thanked the Chairman and Committee for listening to their presentation, further stating that the Georgia Baptist Mission Board has already acknowledged their opposition to the act of gambling and bringing gambling into the state of Georgia. The Chairman proceeded to allow each person accompanying Mr. Griffin to speak on their opposition to the bill.

Chairman Jeffares (17th) asked if there were any questions. There were none. The Chairman thanked Mr. Griffin and his colleagues for their participation.

**NOTE:** Sen. Unterman (45th) left the meeting at 1:58 p.m.

Chairman Jeffares (17th) recognized Sen. Henson (41st) for a final question.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/ s / Sen. Rick Jeffares (17th), Chairman

/ s / C. Denese Sampson, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF  
THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON REGULATED INDUSTRIES AND UTILITIES  
March 20, 2017**

The Senate Committee on Regulated Industries and Utilities held a meeting on Monday, March 20, 2017, at 1:00 p.m. in Room 310 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building (CLOB). Members present were as follows:

Sen. Rick Jeffares (17th), Chairman  
Sen. Frank Ginn (47th), Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Josh McKoon (29th), Secretary  
Sen. Ed Harbison (15th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Steve Henson (41st)  
Sen. Jack Hill (4th) (*arrived late*)  
Sen. John Kennedy (18th) (*arrived late*)  
Sen. David Lucas, Sr. (26th)  
Sen. Butch Miller (49th)  
Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd) (*arrived late*)  
Sen. David Shafer (48th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Renee Unterman (45th), Ex-Officio

**NOTE:** Sen. Bill Cowsert, (46th) and Sen. Steve Gooch (51st) were absent.

Chairman Jeffares (17th) called the meeting to order at 1:11 p.m.

**HB 428 (Rep. Chuck Martin, 49th) Downtown development authorities; authorize assessments**

Chairman Jeffares (17th) confirmed LC 44 0325 as the correct version and introduced Rep. Martin (49th) to explain the bill.

Sen. Henson (41st) made a motion **DO PASS**. Sen. Miller (49th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 8-0. Sen. Gooch (51st) will be the Senate sponsor.

**HB 428 DO PASS**

**HB 510 (Calvin Smyre, 135th) Alcoholic beverages; population and measurement of certain distances; repeal certain provisions**

The Chairman confirmed LC 36 3321 as the correct version and recognized Rep. Calvin Smyre (134th) to address the bill.

Sen. Miller (49th) made a motion **DO PASS**. Sen. Ginn (47th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote of 8-0. Sen. Ed Harbison (15th) will be the Senate sponsor.

### **HB 510 DO PASS**

#### **HB 485 (Rep. Mike Glanton, 75th) Distilled spirits; referendum election be held prior to issuance of licenses to manufacture; remove requirement**

The Chairman recognized Rep. Glanton (75th) to address the Committee. The Chairman asked if there were any questions. There were none.

Sen. Lucas, Sr. (26th) made a motion **DO PASS**. Sen. Miller (49th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 8-0. Sen. Jeffares (17th) will be the Senate sponsor.

### **HB 485 DO PASS**

#### **HB 413 (Rep. Don Parsons, 44th) Public utilities; regulation of certain matters pertaining to rural telephone cooperatives; provisions**

Chairman Jeffares (17th) recognized Rep. Parsons (44th) to address the bill.

**NOTE:** Sen. Kennedy (18th) arrived at 1:15 p.m.

The Chairman advised that a substitute was being presented, and recognized Sen. Kennedy (18th) to explain the substitute.

Rep. Parsons (44th) stated that he would rather have the bill pass as brought to the Committee, but would respect the will of the Committee. He further stated that he's familiar with the language offered in the substitute, but remains hopeful for the bill to pass the Committee as passed by the House of Representatives.

Sen. Kennedy (18th) thanked Rep. Parsons (44th), and further explained what provisions the substitute addresses.

**NOTE:** Sen. Hill (4th) arrived at 1:18 p.m.

Chairman Jeffares (17th) acknowledged that a correction should be made to the date on line 200, and that an amendment would be necessary.

Chairman Jeffares (17th) recognized Sen. Unterman (45th) for a question regarding another bill dealing with the same issue. Sen. Kennedy (18th) responded to her question.

**NOTE:** Sen. Mullis (53rd) arrived at 1:21 p.m.

Chairman Jeffares (17th) recognized Committee members for a series of questions, to which Rep. Parsons (44th) responded.

Sen. Miller (49th) moved for adoption of the amendment as presented. Sen. Ginn (47th) seconded the motion. The amendment was adopted by a unanimous vote of 11-0.

Sen. Ginn (47th) moved **DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE**. Sen. Miller (49th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 11-0. Sen. Kennedy (18th) will be the Senate sponsor.

#### **HB 413 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE LC 36 3401S**

#### **HB 118 (Rep. Trey Kelley, 16th) Fantasy Contests Act; enact**

Chairman Jeffares (17th) stated that the bill had already been heard by the Committee at a previously scheduled meeting (March 16), and asked if there were any further questions. There were none.

Sen. Unterman (45th) moved **DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE**. Sen. Mullis (53rd) seconded the motion.

Before voting, Chairman Jeffares (17th) recognized Sen. Henson (41st), who voiced his concerns about the legislation before casting a vote.

HB 118 passed by vote of 7-4, with Sen. Ginn (47th), Sen. Harbison (15th), Sen. Henson (41st), Sen. Lucas, Sr. (26th), Sen. Miller (49th), Sen. Mullis (53rd), and Sen. Unterman (45th) voting YES, and Sen. McKoon (29th), Sen. Shafer (48th), Sen. Kennedy (18th), and Sen. Hill (4th) voting NO. Sen. Unterman (45th) will be the Senate sponsor.

#### **HB 118 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE LC 36 3394ERS**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/ s / Sen. Josh McKoon (29th), Secretary

/ s / C. Denese Sampson, Recording Secretary



**MINUTES OF  
THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON REGULATED INDUSTRIES AND UTILITIES  
March 24, 2017**

The Senate Committee on Regulated Industries and Utilities held a meeting on Friday, March 24, 2017, at 8:30 a.m. in Room 310 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building (CLOB). Members present were as follows:

Sen. Rick Jeffares (17th), Chairman  
Sen. Frank Ginn (47th), Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Steve Gooch (51st)  
Sen. Jack Hill (4th)  
Sen. Butch Miller (49th)  
Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd)  
Sen. Renee Unterman (45th), Ex-Officio

**NOTE:** Sen. Josh McKoon (29th), Secretary, Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Sen. Ed Harbison (15th), Ex-Officio, Sen. Steve Henson (41st), Sen. John Kennedy (18th), Sen. David Lucas, Sr. (26th), and Sen. David Shafer (48th), Ex-Officio, were absent.

Chairman Jeffares (17th) called the meeting to order at 8:46 a.m.

**HB 413 (Rep. Don Parsons, 44th) Public utilities; regulation of certain matters pertaining to rural telephone cooperatives; provisions**

Chairman Jeffares (17th) further explained that the substitute contained only a couple of changes since its passage by the House of Representatives.

Sen. Unterman (45th) moved **DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE**. Sen. Miller (49th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 6-0. Sen. John Kennedy (18th) will be the Senate sponsor.

**HB 413 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE LC 36 3410S**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:48 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/ s / Sen. Rick Jeffares (17th), Chairman

/ s / C. Denese Sampson, Recording Secretary

**RICK JEFFARES**  
District 17

327-B Coverdell Legislative Office Building  
18 Capitol Square, SW  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334  
Phone: (404) 463-1376

E-mail: rick.jeffares@senate.ga.gov



**The State Senate**  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

**COMMITTEES:**

Regulated Industries and Utilities, Chairman  
Natural Resources and the Environment, Vice-Chairman  
State Institutions and Property, Secretary  
Appropriations  
Ethics

April 5, 2017

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

Secretary Cook,

Attached herewith are six (6) bills assigned to the Senate Committee on Regulated Industries and Utilities that were not acted upon during the 2017 legislative session:

SB 17  
SB 79  
SB 116  
SB 232  
SB 256  
SR 249

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "C. Denese Sampson".

C. Denese Sampson  
Legislative Assistant