

## Senate Committee on Ethics – 2017 Members

### **Sen. Dean Burke, Chairman**

District 11  
1906 Legette Drive  
Bainbridge, GA 39819  
404-656-0040  
301-A Coverdell Legislative Office Building

### **Sen. William Ligon, Jr., Vice- Chairman**

District 3  
158 Scranton Connector  
Brunswick, GA 31525  
404-656-0045  
421-C State Capitol

### **Sen. Gloria S. Butler, Secretary**

District 55  
6241 Southland Trace  
Stone Mountain, GA 30087  
404-656-0075  
420-C State Capitol

### **Sen. Ed Harbison**

District 15  
P.O. Box 1292  
Columbus, GA 31902  
404-656-0074  
431 State Capitol

### **Sen. Rick Jeffares**

District 17  
1300 Keys Ferry Ct.  
McDonough, GA 30253  
404-463-1376  
327-B Coverdell Legislative Office Building

### **Sen. Joshua McKoon**

District 29  
P.O. Box 2565  
Columbus, GA 31902  
404-463-3931  
319-A Coverdell Legislative Office Building

### **Sen. Butch Miller**

District 49  
2420 Browns Bridge Road  
Gainesville, GA 30504  
404-656-7454  
109 State Capitol

### **Sen. Jesse Stone**

District 23  
827 N. Liberty Street  
Waynesboro, GA 30830  
404-463-1314  
325-A Coverdell Legislative Office Building

### **Sen. Curt Thompson**

District 5  
6320 Glenbrook Drive  
Tucker, GA 30084  
404-463-1318  
121-H State Capitol

### **Sen. Ben Watson**

District 1  
1326 Eisenhower Drive #2  
Savannah, GA 31406  
404-656-7880  
320-B Coverdell Legislative Office Building

### **Sen. Michael Williams**

District 27  
3482 Keith Bridge Rd Ste 310  
Cumming, GA 30041  
404-656-7127  
324-A Coverdell Legislative Office Building

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS**  
**Monday, January 30, 2017**

The Senate Committee on Ethics held its first meeting of the 2017 Legislative Session on Monday, January 30, 2017, at 3:00 p.m. in Room 450 of the State Capitol.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Sen. Dean Burke (11th), Chairman  
Sen. Gloria Butler (55th), Secretary  
Sen. Ed Harbison (15th)  
Sen. Josh McKoon (29th)  
Sen. Butch Miller (49th)  
Sen. Jesse Stone (23rd) (Arrived late)  
Sen. Michael Williams (27th)

**NOTE:** Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd), Vice-Chairman, Sen. Rick Jeffares (17th), Sen. Curt Thompson (5th), and Sen. Ben Watson (1st) were absent.

Chairman Burke (11th) called the meeting to order at 3:16 p.m.

The Committee Rules were presented by Chairman Burke (11th). A brief discussion followed.

Sen. Harbison (15th) moved **DO PASS**. Sen. Butler (55th) seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously with a vote of 5-0. A copy of the Rules is attached.

**NOTE:** Sen. Stone (23rd) arrived at the meeting after the vote was taken.

Chairman Burke (11th) created two Ethics Committee Subcommittees:

**Elections:**

Chairman, Sen. Jeffares (17th)  
Sen. Butler (55th)  
Sen. Williams (27th)  
Sen. McKoon (29th)  
Sen. Stone (23rd)

**Ethics:**

Chairman, Sen. Miller (49th)  
Sen. Harbison (15th)  
Sen. Stone (23rd)  
Sen. Watson (1st)

Chairman Burke (11th) stated that bills referred to the Ethics Committee had been assigned to the Subcommittees and that the members and Chairmen would be so notified.

Having no further business, Chairman Burke (11th) adjourned the meeting at 3:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Gloria Butler (55th), Secretary

/s/ Diana Hauser, Recording Secretary

**Senate Committee on Ethics**  
**Rules 2017 – 2018**

1. Quorum of the Committee shall be six (6) members.
2. The Chairperson shall determine which bills and resolutions are to be considered and the order in which said measures are considered.
3. The Chairperson shall have the authority to refer bills and resolutions to Subcommittees for study. Such Subcommittees in turn shall have the authority to make recommendations on such measures to the full Committee at such time as shall be designated by the Chairperson.
4. The Committee shall only consider bill/resolution substitutes or amendments received twenty-four (24) hours before a Committee meeting unless waived by the Chairperson.
5. The author of the bill/resolution must write a letter to the Chairperson one week prior to a Committee meeting requesting it to be heard by the Committee.
6. The Committee shall convene, recess, and adjourn upon the order of the Chairperson.
7. Public comments may be heard on any bill before the Committee at the discretion of the Chairperson and time limits on those comments will be determined as circumstances dictate.
8. During Committee meetings, Committee members and those in the audience shall turn off or place in silent mode all cell phones, pagers, and other similar devices.
9. A bill or resolution will be considered only after presentation by its principal author or other legislator whom he or she may designate. The principal author shall be the legislator whose name appears first on the list of authors.
10. 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. Any majority or minority report pertaining to the Committee proceedings in an ethics investigation under these Committee Rules shall be considered as part of the record in such proceedings.
- 11.1 (a)(1) Proceedings on formal complaints brought by a Senator or staff person pursuant to Senate Rule 1-4.10 shall be governed by such Senate Rule and the Rules of this Committee.  
(2) Proceedings on formal complaints brought pursuant to O.C.G.A. Sec. 45-10-91 shall be governed by Part 6 of Article 2 of Chapter 10 of Title 45 of the O.C.G.A. and the Rules of this Committee.

(b)(1) The chairperson of the Committee shall appoint a Subcommittee consisting of three members of the Committee and delegate thereto the authority and duty to conduct an investigation of any formal complaint received by the Committee pursuant to Senate Rule 1-4.10 or O.C.G.A. Sec. 45-10-91.

(2) Upon completing such an investigation, the Subcommittee shall submit a report of its findings to the full Committee.

(c) Upon the adoption by the Committee of a report of the findings of an investigatory Subcommittee, the Committee shall then determine whether it has jurisdiction over the complaint. If the Committee determines that it has jurisdiction, then:

(1) In the case of a complaint within the meaning of Senate Rule 1-4.10, the Committee shall determine whether substantial cause exists that a violation occurred; or

(2) In the case of a complaint within the meaning of O.C.G.A. Sec. 45-10-91, the Committee shall determine whether reasonable grounds exist to believe that improper conduct or sexual harassment has occurred.

(d) (1) All complaints within the meaning of Senate Rule 1-4.10 and other records related thereto in the possession of the Committee or a Subcommittee thereof shall remain confidential unless and until the full Committee, after an investigation, has determined that substantial cause exists that a violation occurred. If the Committee determines that such substantial cause does not exist or that the Committee has no jurisdiction over the complaint, then the complaint shall be dismissed and, along with other records related thereto, shall remain confidential.

(2) All complaints within the meaning of O.C.G.A. Sec. 45-10-91 and other records related thereto in the possession of the Committee or a Subcommittee thereof shall remain confidential unless and until the full Committee, after an investigation, has determined that reasonable grounds exist to believe that improper conduct or sexual harassment has occurred. If the Committee determines that such reasonable grounds do not exist or that the Committee has no jurisdiction over the complaint, then the complaint shall be dismissed and, along with other records related thereto, shall remain confidential.

(e) Any settlement of, Committee evidentiary hearing on, or rendering of judgment on a complaint brought pursuant to Senate Rule 1-4.10 or O.C.G.A. Sec. 45-10-91 shall be subject to Senate Rule 1-4.10(e) and (f).

(f) (1) Any penalty imposed pursuant to judgment on a complaint brought pursuant to Senate Rule 1-4.10 shall be subject to Senate Rule 1-4.10(g).

(2) Any penalty imposed pursuant to judgment on a complaint brought pursuant to O.C.G.A. Sec. 45-10-91 shall be the same as provided by Senate Rule 1-4.10(g).

**12.** (a) There shall be an Executive Subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Ethics. The Executive Subcommittee shall consist of the three officers of the Senate Committee on Ethics (i.e., the chairperson, the vice-chairperson, and the secretary of the Senate Committee on Ethics), except that if there is no Senator from the minority party among the three officers of the Senate Committee on Ethics, then the Executive Subcommittee shall consist of the chairperson and vice-chairperson of the Senate Committee on Ethics

and a Senator from the minority party appointed to the Executive Subcommittee by the chairperson.

(b) The Executive Subcommittee shall act as a screening panel for communication received by the Committee that:

- (1) Alleged violations of Section 1, Part 4 of the Rules of the Senate or otherwise indicates that an investigation by the Senate Committee on Ethics may be warranted; and
- (2) Are not formal complaints by the Senator or staff member.

(c) The screening function of the Executive Subcommittee is established in view of the facts that:

- (1) The Senate Committee on Ethics is not required to take any action with respect to such a communication that is not a formal complaint; but
- (2) The Senate Committee on Ethics is authorized to initiate an investigation on its own initiative and such a communication may be of such a nature as to indicate a need for such an investigation.

(d) Upon receipt of a communication described in subsection (b) of this rule, if the communication is in writing and signed, the chairperson may, but shall not be required to, convene the Executive Subcommittee to consider the matter.

(e) All matters determined by the Subcommittee to be complaints within the meaning of Senate Rule 1-4.10 shall remain confidential unless and until the Committee has determined that substantial cause exists that a violation occurred. If the Committee determines that such substantial cause does not exist, the complaint shall be dismissed and remain confidential.

(f) If the Executive Subcommittee determines that the communication described in subsection (b) of this Rule does not meet the standards for a complaint under Senate Rule 1-4.10, the Executive Subcommittee shall treat the communication as confidential. The Executive Subcommittee may refer the communication to the Committee for the Committee to take action under Rule 7 (c) (2) of the Senate Ethics Committee Rules. Such referral shall be confidential until and unless disclosure is required by these Rules or the Rules of the Senate.

(g) If the Executive Subcommittee determines that there is a substantial probability that the matter merits the opening of an investigation by the full Committee, that determination shall be communicated to the full Committee. Such communication from the Executive Subcommittee to the Committee shall be confidential. If the Executive Subcommittee determines that there is no substantial probability that the matter merits the opening of an investigation by the full Committee, then no report of such determination to the full Committee shall be required and the matter shall stand disposed of and the matter shall remain confidential subject to the Rules of the Senate.

(h) Nothing in this Rule shall operate to preclude or bar any subsequent formal complaint or any Subsequent Committee investigation in any case; and no determination by the Executive Subcommittee shall be binding on the full Committee.

**13.** Requests made pursuant to Senate Rule 1-4.10 for the opinion or advice of the Ethics Committee and any opinions or advice of the Ethics Committee and any opinions or advice given shall be confidential.

**14.1.** Any Senate staff or counsel selected by the Ethics Committee, the Executive Subcommittee, an investigatory Subcommittee, or the Chairperson of the Ethics Committee to investigate complaints made pursuant to Senate Rule 1-4.10 or O.C.G.A. Sec. 45-10-91 or investigating or responding to any matters deemed confidential by Senate Rules or the Senate Ethics Committee Rules shall maintain at all times the confidentiality of the matter.

**14.2.** (a) Upon the final disposition of any ethics matter under these Committee Rules, whether by dismissal, settlement, judgment, or otherwise, the Committee shall deposit all records relating to such proceedings that are in its possession or in the possession of a Subcommittee with the Office of Legislative Counsel for physical custody thereof until such time as the records are withdrawn in accordance with subsection (b) of this rule. Any such records that are required to be kept confidential shall be sealed by the Committee prior to such deposit.

(b) (1) The Committee, an investigatory Subcommittee, or the Executive Subcommittee, for purposes of a subsequent investigation against the same member based on new evidence, and subject to the confidentiality provisions of these Committee Rules, may withdraw and unseal records of a related prior complaint or investigation.

(2) The Committee shall withdraw and promptly cause to be destroyed its records relating to ethics proceedings upon:

(A) The expiration of six years following the date the formal complaint was filed or the Executive Subcommittee was convened in the matter, whichever is applicable; or

(B) The expiration of one year following the date of termination or interruption of the accused member's service in the Senate by death, resignation, removal from office, or failure to be reelected; whichever first occurs.

**15.** The chairperson may present to the Committee a proposed change in these Rules at any time. Any other member proposing a change in these Rules shall provide written notice of the proposed change to the chairperson and secretary at least 72 hours before presenting any proposed change to the Committee.

**16.** These Rules may be amended upon a motion duly made and subsequently approved by two-thirds of the members of the Committee.

**17.** Where these Rules are silent on a specific issue, the Rules of the Senate in effect at the time shall govern.

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS**  
**Thursday, February 9, 2017**

The Senate Committee on Ethics held its second meeting of the 2017 Legislative Session on Thursday, February 9, 2017, at 8:30 a.m. in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Sen. Dean Burke (11th), Chairman

Sen. Jesse Stone (23rd)

Sen. Ben Watson (1st)

Sen. Michael Williams (27th)

Ex- Officio

Sen. Matt Brass (28th)

Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th)

**NOTE:** Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd), Vice-Chairman, Sen. Gloria Butler (55th), Secretary, Sen. Ed Harbison (15th), Sen. Rick Jeffares (17th), Sen. Josh McKoon (29th), Sen. Butch Miller (49th), and Sen. Curt Thompson (5th) were absent.

Chairman Burke (11th) called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

**SB 107 (Sen. Fran Millar, 40th) Ethics in Government; filing campaign financial disclosure reports; additional date prior to general primary; revise the dates**

Chairman Burke (11th) called on Sen. Millar (40th) to speak to the substitute for SB 107 (LC 28 8311S).

Sen. Stone (23rd) moved **DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 28 8311S)**. Sen. Watson (1st) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with a vote of 5-0.

**SB 107 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE**

Having no further business, Chairman Burke (11th) adjourned the meeting at 8:44 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Dean Burke (11th), Chairman

/s/ Diana Hauser, Recording Secretary



**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS**  
**Thursday, February 16, 2017**

The Senate Committee on Ethics held its third meeting of the 2017 Legislative Session on Thursday, February 16, 2017, at 3:30 p.m. in Room 125 of the State Capitol.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Sen. Dean Burke (11th), Chairman  
Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd), Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Gloria Butler (55th), Secretary  
Sen. Ed Harbison (15th)  
Sen. Rick Jeffares (17th)  
Sen. Michael Williams (27th)

**NOTE:** Sen. Josh McKoon (29th), Sen. Butch Miller (49th), Sen. Jesse Stone (23rd), Sen. Curt Thompson (5th), and Sen. Ben Watson (1st) were absent.

Chairman Burke (11th) called the meeting to order at 3:48 p.m.

**HB 42 (Rep. Eddie Lumsden, 12th) Elections; election superintendents to correct mistakes and omissions on ballots for a primary or election; authorize**

Chairman Burke (11th) called upon Rep. Lumsden (12th) to speak to the substitute for HB 42 (LC 28 8364S).

Sen. Williams (27th) moved **DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 28 8364S)**. Sen. Jeffares (17th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with a vote of 5-0.

**HB 42 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE**

Having no further business, Chairman Burke (11th) adjourned the meeting at 3:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Gloria Butler (55th), Secretary

/s/ Diana Hauser, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS**  
**Monday, February 27, 2017**

The Senate Committee on Ethics held its fourth meeting of the 2017 Legislative Session on Monday, February 27, 2017, at 4:00 p.m. in Room 450 of the State Capitol.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Sen. Dean Burke (11th), Chairman  
Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd), Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Gloria Butler (55th), Secretary  
Sen. Ed Harbison (15th)  
Sen. Rick Jeffares (17th) (Left early)  
Sen. Josh McKoon (29th)  
Sen. Jesse Stone (23rd)  
Sen. Curt Thompson (5th)  
Sen. Ben Watson (1st)  
Sen. Michael Williams (27th)

**NOTE:** Sen. Butch Miller (49th) was absent.

Chairman Burke (11th) called the meeting to order at 4:07 p.m.

**SB 192 (Sen. Rick Jeffares, 17th) Elections and Primaries; nonpartisan election of district attorneys, sheriffs, coroners, tax commissioners, and clerks of superior court; qualifying; provide**

Chairman Burke (11th) called upon Sen. Jeffares (17th) to speak to the substitute for SB 192 (LC 28 8399S). A brief discussion followed.

Chairman Burke (11th) called upon those who signed up to speak to the bill.

Speaking for the bill were:

David Curry, Henry County Tax Commissioner  
Chuck Spahos, Prosecuting Attorneys' Council

Speaking against the bill was:

Ed Painter, an independent lobbyist

Sen. Stone (23rd) moved **DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 28 8399S)**. Sen. Jeffares (17th) seconded the motion. The motion failed with a vote of 7-2. Sen. Jeffares (17th) and Sen. Stone (23rd) had the "yea" votes; Sen. Ligon, Jr. (3rd), Sen. Butler (55th), Sen. Harbison (15th), Sen. McKoon (29th), Sen. Thompson (5th), Sen. Watson (1st), and Sen. Williams (27<sup>th</sup>) had the "nay" votes.

**SB 192 MOTION FAILED**

**NOTE:** Sen. Jeffares (17th) left the meeting at 4:29 p.m. after the vote.

**SB 225 (Sen. Michael Williams, 27th) Elections; tabulation of advance voting ballots in the same manner as absentee votes; provide**

Chairman Burke (11th) asked Sen. Williams (27th) to speak to the bill.

Chairman Burke (11th) asked if any members of the committee had questions or comments. A brief discussion followed.

Sen. Ligon, Jr. (3rd) made a motion **DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 28 8412S)**. Sen. McKoon (29th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with a vote of 8-0.  
**SB 225 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE**

Having no further business, Chairman Burke (11th) adjourned the meeting at 4:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Gloria Butler (55th), Secretary

/s/ Diana Hauser, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS**  
**Monday, March 13, 2017**

The Senate Committee on Ethics held its fifth meeting of the 2017 Legislative Session on Monday, March 13, 2017, at 3:00 p.m. in Room 450 of the State Capitol.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Sen. Dean Burke (11th), Chairman  
Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd), Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Gloria Butler (55th), Secretary  
Sen. Ed Harbison (15th)  
Sen. Josh McKoon (29th)  
Sen. Butch Miller (49th)  
Sen. Jesse Stone (23rd)  
Sen. Curt Thompson (5th)  
Sen. Ben Watson (1st)

**NOTE:** Sen. Rick Jeffares (17th) and Sen. Michael Williams (27th) were absent.

Chairman Burke (11th) called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

**HB 268 (Rep. Barry Fleming, 121st) - Elections; time period certification of election officials; provide**

Chairman Burke (11th) called upon Rep. Barry Fleming (121st) to speak to the substitute for HB 268 (LC 28 8464S).

Chairman Burke (11th) asked if there were any questions or comments from the Committee members. Hearing none, Chairman Burke (11th) called upon those who had signed up to speak to the bill.

Speaking against the bill were:

Helen Butler, Georgia Coalition for the People's Agenda  
Aisha Yaqoob, Asian Americans Advancing Justice

A brief discussion followed.

Sen. McKoon (29th) made a motion **DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 28 8464S)**. Sen. Stone (23rd) seconded the motion. The bill passed with a vote of 5-3; Sen. Butler (55th), Sen. Harbison (15th), and Sen. Thompson (5th) had the "nay" votes.

**HB 268 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE**

Having no further business, Chairman Burke (11th) adjourned the meeting at 3:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Gloria Butler (55th), Secretary

/s/ Diana Hauser, Recording Secretary

March 27, 2017

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

Dear Mr. Cook:

The following bills are being reported as having no action taken on them by the **Senate Ethics Committee** during the 2017 Legislative Session:

Senate Bill 20  
Senate Bill 22  
Senate Bill 32  
Senate Bill 33  
Senate Bill 34  
Senate Bill 35  
Senate Bill 36  
Senate Bill 37  
Senate Bill 57  
Senate Bill 59

Senate Bill 62  
Senate Bill 64  
Senate Bill 110  
Senate Bill 111  
Senate Bill 112  
Senate Bill 114  
Senate Bill 192  
Senate Bill 255  
Senate Resolution 71

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Hauser  
Senate Ethics Committee  
Recording Secretary