

**The Senate Committee on Agriculture & Consumer Affairs
2018 Roster**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Senate Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Committee
2017-2018 Rules

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

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

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

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Consumer Affairs
January 25, 2018

The Senate on Agriculture and Consumer Affairs held a meeting on Thursday, January 25, 2018 in Room 125 of the State Capitol at 2:00p.m.

The following Senators were present:

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

Chairman Wilkinson (50th) called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. and introduced the committee. Vice-Chairman Anderson (24th) started with a prayer.

SB 257 (Sen. Bill Heath, 31st, LC 40 1468ER) A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Chapter 1 of Title 4 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to general provisions relative to animals, so as to provide for consultation with a veterinarian employed or approved by the Department of Agriculture prior to the filing of criminal charges for cruelty to animals in certain instances; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Sen. Black (8th) made a motion that **SB 257 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 37 2510ERS)** do pass. Sen. Sims (12th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

SB 257 DO PASS (LC 37 2510ERS)

Chairman Wilkinson (50th) adjourned the meeting at 2:05p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Taylor Hartshorn, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Consumer Affairs
February 1, 2018**

The Senate on Agriculture and Consumer Affairs held a meeting on Thursday, February 1, 2018 in Room 125 of the State Capitol at 2:00p.m.

The following Senators were present:

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

Chairman Wilkinson (50th) called the meeting to order at 2:04p.m. Sen. Heath (31th) started with a prayer.

SB 330 (Sen. Wilkinson, 50th, LC 33 7134) A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the "Quality Basic Education Act," so as to provide that the agricultural education program in this state is based on a three-component model; to provide for a pilot program to develop and implement agricultural education in elementary schools; to provide for selection of pilot sites; to provide for program requirements; to provide for a program evaluation; to provide for the Professional Standards Commission to extend in-field certification for agricultural education to include kindergarten through grade five; to provide for related matters; to provide for a short title; to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Sen. Wilkinson (50th) introduced the bill.

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Gary Black, Commissioner of Agriculture
Cosby Johnson, Georgia Chamber
Bryan Tolar, Georgia Agribusiness Council
Joel McKie, Hall Booth Smith

Chairman Wilkinson (50th) invited Chip Bridges and Ben Lastly of FFA to speak in support.

Sen. Harper (7th) made a motion that **SB 330 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 37 2528S)**
Sen. Sims (12th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

SB 330: DO PASS (LC 37 2528S)

The meeting adjourned at 2:34p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Taylor Hartshorn, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Consumer Affairs
February 15, 2018**

The Senate on Agriculture and Consumer Affairs held a meeting on Thursday, February 15, 2018 in Room 125 of the State Capitol at 4:00p.m.

The following Senators were present:

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

NOTE: Sen. Tyler Harper (7th) was absent.

Chairman Wilkinson (50th) called the meeting to order at 4:00p.m. Sen. Heath (31th) started with a prayer.

SB 418 (Sen. Wilkinson, 50th, LC 37 2578) A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Chapter 1 of Title 10 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to selling and other trade practices, so as to prohibit county, municipal, and consolidated governments from banning the sales of goods, products, or items regulated by the United States Department of Agriculture, the United States Food and Drug Administration, or the Georgia Department of Agriculture, which are sold at properly zoned retail establishments; to provide for definitions; to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Testimony in opposition to the bill:

Virginia Galloway, Faith & Freedom Coalition
Michael McPherson, Georgia Municipal Association
Andy Lord, American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA)

NOTE: Sen. Burke (11th) left the meeting.

Testimony in opposition to the bill (continued):

Cindy Wiemann, Georgia Animal Care & Control Association President
Carrie Ducote, Senior Writer of Georgia Best Friends Animal Society
Bobbi Yeo, CEO of Paws
Amy Cantler, CEO of Paws for Change
John Eberhardt, League of Humane Voters: Georgia Chapter
Rev. Mike Griffin, Georgia Baptist Public Affairs
Peggy McCarthy, Retired Citizen

Debra Shavick, Adopt A Golden
Lauren Genkroger, Adopt A Golden
Lisa Greenman, Citizen
Gloria Dorsey, Atlanta Humane Society

Sen. Black (8th) made a motion that **SB 418 DO PASS (LC 37 2578)**. Sen. Anderson (24th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 3-2. Sen. Black (8th), Heath (31st) and Anderson (24th) voted in favor of the bill. Sen. Sims (12th) and Sen. Walker (20th) voted against.

SB 418 DO PASS (LC 37 2578)

Meeting was adjourned at 4:58p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Taylor Hartshorn, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Consumer Affairs
February 22, 2018**

The Senate Committee on Agriculture and Consumer Affairs held a meeting on Thursday, February 22, 2018 in Room 125 of the State Capitol at 2:00 p.m.

The following Senators were present:

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

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

Chairman Wilkinson (50th) called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m. Sen. Heath (31th) started with a prayer.

SB 451 (Sen. Walker, 20th, LC 44 0768-EC) A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Code Section 2-6-27 of the O.C.G.A., relating to the State Soil and Water Conservation Commission - additional duties and powers, so as to remove authority of the State Soil and Water Conservation Commission to formulate certain rules and regulations in consultation with the Environmental Protection Division of the Department of Natural Resources; to amend Chapter 5 of Title 12 of the O.C.G.A., relating to water resources, so as to modify provisions relating to regulated riparian rights to surface waters for general or farm use, permits for withdrawal, diversion or impoundment, coordination with water plans, metering of farm use, interbasin transfers, and appeal procedures; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Sen. Walker presented the bill.

Testimony in favor:

Bryan Tolar, Agribusiness Council
Jeffrey Harvey, Georgia Farm Bureau
Chris Manganello, Water Policy Director of Chattahoochee Riverbend

Sen. Harper (7th) made a motion that **SB 451 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 37 2628-ECS)**. Sen. Burke (11th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

SB 451: DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 37 2628-ECS)

Chairman Wilkinson (50th) adjourned the meeting at 3:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Taylor Hartshorn, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Consumer Affairs
March 8, 2018

The Senate on Agriculture and Consumer Affairs held a meeting on Thursday, March 8, 2018 in Room 125 of the State Capitol at 2:00p.m.

The following Senators were present:

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

Vice-Chairman Anderson (24th) called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m. in Chairman Wilkinson's absence. Sen Walker (20th) led in prayer.

HB 886 (Rep. Watson, 172nd, LC 21 5972S) A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Article 1 of Chapter 8 of Title 48 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to state sales and use taxes, so as to provide for the cooperation of the Department of Revenue and the Department of Agriculture in the administration and enforcement of the state sales and use tax exemption for agricultural machinery and equipment; to provide for a change to the qualifying amounts for the agricultural exemption; to provide for penalties; to provide for reporting; to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Rep. Watson introduced the bill.

NOTE: Chairman Wilkinson (50th) entered meeting at 2:13p.m.

Sen. Heath (31st) made a motion to **Amend HB 886 (LC 21 5972S)** on line 102, changing \$150 to \$75.

Testimony in favor:

Bryan Tolar, Georgia Agribusiness Council
Alex Bradford, Farm Bureau
Larry Ramsey, ACCG

Sen. Heath (31st) moved his amendment. Sen. Harper (7th) seconded the motion. The motion to amend failed by a vote of 2-5. Sen. Heath (31st) and Sen. Harper (7th) vote for the motion to

amend. Sen. Sims (12th), Sen. Walker (20th), Sen. Black (8th), Sen. Burke (11th) and Sen. Anderson (24th) vote against the motion.

Sen. Walker (20th) moved that **HB 886 DO PASS (LC 21 5972S)** Sen. Anderson (24th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

HB 886: DO PASS (LC 21 5972S)

HB 876 (Rep. Corbett, 174th, LC 45 0036) A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Code Section 8-2-25 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to state-wide application of minimum standard codes, adoption of more stringent requirements by local governments, adoption of standards for which state code does not exist, and exemptions for farm buildings and structures, so as to prohibit counties and municipalities from proscribing the use of wood in the construction of buildings when state minimum standard codes are otherwise met; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Rep. Corbett (174th) introduced the bill.

NOTE: Sen. Sims (12th) left the meeting.

Sen. Millar (40th) made a motion to **Amend HB 876 (LC 45 0036)**, but it is clarified it will not be voted upon.

NOTE: Sen. Burke (11th) left the meeting.

Testimony in favor:

Paul Coats, American Wood Counsel
Haydon Stanley, Georgia Apartment Association,
John Poole, Georgia Paper and Forestry Products
Andres Villegas, Georgia Forestry
Alex Bradford, Georgia Farm Bureau,
Skin Edge, Georgia Pacific
Tim Livermore, Inter-force

Testimony in Opposition:

Chief Keith Sander, Sandy Springs Fire Dept.
The Hon. Rusty Paul, Mayor of Sandy Springs
Chris Pike, City of Dunwoody
Michael McPherson, GMA
Steve Stalko, Skalko & Associates
Monte Simpson, Weyerhaeuser
Mark Ware, Georgia State Firefighters
Dan Lee, City Attorney

Sen. Millar (40th) spoke to his amendment, no further action was taken.

Sen. Heath (31st) made a motion that **HB 876 DO PASS (LC 45 0036)**. Sen. Walker (20th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

HB 876: DO PASS (LC 45 0036)

Appointments to be made by the Agriculture Committee:

-Georgia Commodity Commission

Sen. Black (8th) made a motion to appoint Buddy Leger to the Georgia Commodity Commission. Sen. Anderson (24th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

-Seed Development Commission

Sen. Black (8th) made a motion to appoint Jimmy Clements to the Seed Development Commission. Sen. Heath (31st) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 3:31p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Taylor Hartshorn, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Consumer Affairs
March 15, 2018

The Senate on Agriculture and Consumer Affairs held a meeting on Thursday, March 15, 2018 in Room 125 of the State Capitol at 2:00p.m.

The following Senators were present:

Sen. John Wilkinson (50th) Chairman
Sen. Lee Anderson (24th) Vice-Chairman
Sen. Ellis Black (8th) Secretary
Sen. Tyler Harper (7th) (*Left Early*)
Sen. Bill Heath, (31st)
Sen. Larry Walker (20th)
Sen. Dean Burke (11th) (*Arrived Late*) (*Left Early*)

NOTE: Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th) was absent.

Chairman Wilkinson (50th) called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

[SR 989](#) (Sen. Wilkinson, 50th, LC 116 0371) A RESOLUTION encouraging the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) to withdraw the Electronic Logging Device (ELD) regulations on the agriculture industry and supporting agribusinesses; and for other purposes.

Testimony in favor:

Bryan Tolar, Georgia Agribusiness
Alex Bradford, Georgia Farm Bureau

Sen. Harper (7th) made a motion that **SR 989 DO PASS (LC 116 0371)**. Sen. Anderson (24th) seconded the motion. The motion passes unanimously.

SR 989 DO PASS (LC 116 0371)

[HB 904](#) (Rep. Hanson, 80th, LC 29 7866) A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Code Section 51-3-25 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to certain liability not limited, so as to clarify provisions relating to the effect of an owner of land charging an admission price or fee; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Rep. Hanson (80th) introduced the bill.

Sen. Harper (7th) made a motion to **Amend HB 904 (LC 29 7866)** on line 10. Sen. Heath (31st) seconds the motion. The motion to amend passes unanimously.

NOTE: Sen. Burke (11th) arrived.

Sen. Anderson (24th) made a motion that **HB 904 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 37 2647S)** do pass and Sen. Harper (7th) seconds. Bill passes 5-1 as amended, with Sen. Heath (31st) in opposition.

HB 904: DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 37 2674S).

HB 40 (Rep. Turner, 21st, LC 40 1263) A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Article 4 of Chapter 12 of Title 24 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to medical and other confidential information, so as to provide an exception for confidentiality of certain medical information of animals within a veterinarian's care; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Rep. Turner (21st) introduced the bill.

Sen. Walker (20th) made a motion that **HB 40 DO PASS (LC 40 1263)**. Sen. Black (8th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

HB 40: DO PASS (LC 40 1263)

HB 956 (Rep. Pirkle, 155th, LC 45 0093-ERS) A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Chapter 50 of Title 43 of the O.C.G.A., relating to veterinarians and veterinary technicians, so as to change certain provisions relating to definitions relative to such chapter; to amend Article 11 of Chapter 3 of Title 38 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to military, emergency management, and veterans affairs generally, so as to revise a cross-reference; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Rep. Pirkle (155th) introduced the bill.

Sen. Black (8th) and Sen. Heath (31st) suggested the Committee take more time to review the bill.

NOTE: Sen. Burke (11th) left the meeting at 2:49p.m.

Chairman Wilkinson (50th) notes that HB 956 will be hearing only.

NOTE: Sen. Harper (7th) left the meeting at 2:58p.m.

Chairman Wilkinson adjourned the meeting at 3:04p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Taylor Hartshorn, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Consumer Affairs
March 20, 2018**

The Senate on Agriculture and Consumer Affairs held a meeting on Thursday, March 20, 2018 in the Senate Mezzanine of the State Capitol at 10:00 a.m.

The following Senators were present:

Senator Lee Anderson (24th) Vice-Chairman
Senator Tyler Harper (7th)
Senator Larry Walker (20th)
Senator Dean Burke, (11th)
Senator Freddie Powell Sims (12th)

NOTE: Sen. John Wilkinson (50th). Sen. Ellis Black (8th) and Sen. Bill Heath (31st) were absent.

Vice-Chairman Anderson (24th) called the meeting to order at 10:09 a.m.

HB 956 (Rep. Pirkle, 155th LC 45 0093-ERS) A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Chapter 50 of Title 43 of the O.C.G.A., relating to veterinarians and veterinary technicians, so as to change certain provisions relating to definitions relative to such chapter; to amend Article 11 of Chapter 3 of Title 38 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to military, emergency management, and veterans affairs generally, so as to revise a cross-reference; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Sen. Walker (20th) made a motion to change “weeks to months” on page 23, line. Sen. Harper (7th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Sen. Black (8th) made a motion to amend page 40, line 121, by inserting the definition of a mobile clinic. Sen. Harper seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Sen. Harper (7th) made a motion to adopt an amendment (AM 45 0013ERS). Sen. Burke (11th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Sen. Burke (11th) made a motion that **HB 956 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 37 2679-ERS)**. Sen. Sims (12th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

HB 956: DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 37 2679-ERS)

Vice-Chairman Anderson adjourned meeting at 10:20a.m.
Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Lee Anderson, 24th, Vice-Chairman

/s/ Taylor Hartshorn, Recording Secretary