

SENATOR LINDSEY TIPPINS

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COMMITTEES:

Education and Youth, Chairman

Appropriations
Natural Resources and the Environment
Rules
Transportation
Administrative Affairs

The State Senate

Atlanta, Georgia 30334

April 10, 2018

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

RE: Senate Education and Youth Committee – 2018 Session

Dear Mr. Cook,

The Senate Education and Youth Committee respectfully submits the following Senate Bills, House Bills, Senate Resolutions, and House Resolutions left in the Senate Education and Youth Committee after the 2018 General Assembly Legislative Session:

SB 24 SB 26 SB 68 SB 76 SB 77 SB 83 SB 97 SB 98 SB 150 SB 151 SB181 SB 188
SB 203 SB 243 SB 253 SB 260 SB 361 SB 384 SB 439

This letter includes the following information and lists the attachments:

- Bills left in the Senate Education and Youth Committee after the 2018 session – listed above
- Bills passed out of the Senate Education and Youth Committee 2018 – Listed below
- Listing of the Committee Meeting Dates - listed below
- Senate Education and Youth Committee Members and their addresses- attached
- Rules for the Senate Education and Youth Committee 2018 Session – Attached
- Minutes for the dates listed below – attached

Listed below are the dates for the Senate Education and Youth Committee Meetings for the 2018 General Assembly Legislative Session:

January 24, 2018	February 5, 2018	March 5, 2018
January 31, 2018	February 7, 2018	March 7, 2018
	February 12, 2018	March 12, 2018
	February 14, 2018	March 19, 2018
	February 21, 2018	March 23, 2018
	February 22, 2018	

Listed below are the Senate Bills, House Bills, Senate Resolutions, and/or House Resolutions that passed out of the Senate Education and Youth Committee for 2018:

SB 235 SB 273 SB 362 SB 401 SB 456 SB 457 HB 494 HB 655 HB 718 HB 739 HB 740 HB 743
HB 759 HB 763 HB 787 HB 852 HB 853 HR 898

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Senator Lindsey Tippins
Chairman, Senate Education and Youth
Youth

Samantha Nix
Legislative Assistant, Senate Education and

**SENATE EDUCATION AND YOUTH COMMITTEE
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
P.O. Box 311225
Atlanta, GA 30331
Phone: (404) 625-8855

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
121- A State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334
Phone: (404) 463-8053

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND YOUTH
RULES 2017-2018 SESSION**

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

1. The quorum for the Education and Youth Committee 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 principle 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 JOINT HOUSE AND SENATE COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION AND YOUTH
January 25, 2018**

The House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education and Youth met jointly on Thursday, January 25, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. in room 606 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building.

SENATORS PRESENT

Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th), Chairman (left early)

Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary

Sen. Matt Brass (28th)

Sen. Fran Millar (40th) (left early)

Sen. Elena Parent (42nd)

Sen. Jesse Stone (23rd)

Sen. Horacena Tate (38th) (left early)

NOTE: Sen. John Wilkinson (50th), Vice-Chairman, Sen. Ellis Black (8th), and Sen. Donzella James (35th) were absent.

Chairman Tippins (37th) called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m.

Education Community Members who presented to the community:

Richard Woods, Superintendent – Georgia Department of Education

Eric Thomas, Chief Turnaround Officer- Georgia Department of Education

Steve Dolinger, President – Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education

Kimberly Boyd, Coordinator- International Baccalaureates Advanced Placement (North Hall HS)

Bruce Shahbaz, Director- Strategy Military Initiatives for the College Board

Eric Arena, Superintendent- Putnam County Schools

Dr. Allen McCannon, Superintendent – Madison County Schools

Dan Weber, Charter Systems Foundation

NOTE: Sen. Tippins (37th) left the meeting early at 3:35 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Tate (38th) left the meeting early at 3:35 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Millar (40th) left the meeting early at 4:00 p.m.

Chairman Brooks Coleman (97th) adjourned the joint meeting at 4:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Freddie Powell Sims, Secretary

/s/ Samantha Nix, Recording Secretary

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND YOUTH
January 31, 2018

The Senate Committee on Education and Youth met on Wednesday, January 31, 2018 at 3:00 p.m. in room 450 of the Capitol.

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) (arrived late)
Sen. Jesse Stone (23rd)
Sen. Horacena Tate (38th) (arrived late)

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

Chairman Tippins (37th) called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.m.

NOTE: Senator Tate arrived late at 3:06 p.m.

NOTE: Senator Parent arrived late at 3:07 p.m.

Presenters:

Dan Weber, Charter System Foundation
John Floresta, Marietta City Schools
Ken Dyer, Dougherty County Schools
Morris Lee, Coffee County Schools

HEARING ONLY

SB 362 (Sen. Tippins, 37th, LC 33 7191) Relating to education, so as to provide for the establishment of an innovative assessment pilot program...

Chairman Tippins (37th) presented the bill. He explained the Innovative Assessment Pilot Program and the reasons for creating it.

Sen. Tate (38th) questioned how many assessments will take place to determine where kids are, academically.

Chairman Tippins (37th) answered that it is dependent on how many assessments are needed and how to best serve the district due to not all schools having the same resources.

Guest speakers spoke in favor of the bill:
Lou Erste, Georgia Department of Education
Chuck Clay, Georgia Education Coalition
Dr. McLesky, Gwinnett County Schools
Joshua Patterson, Gwinnett County Schools
Cita Cook, Retired Teacher

NOTE: Sen. Black (8th) arrived late at 3:45 p.m.

Sen. Parent (42nd) asked for more detail on line 133 and also who might serve as the external independent third party. Lou Erste responded that the Department does not have certain people in mind, but currently has a project with the Council of Chief State School Officers. The Department contracted with them to do the assessment evaluation that is currently going on. The assessment group has been evaluating since the passage of **SB 211**.

Sen. Sims (12th) asked for the costs to Department for the third party company to do the evaluations. Lou Erste stated that there is support for the upfront development within the legislation.

SB 362 (LC 33 7191) HEARING ONLY

Chairman Tippins (37th) adjourned the meeting at 3:49 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 7, 2018

The Senate Committee on Education and Youth met on Wednesday, February 7, 2018, at 3:00 p.m. in room 450 of the State Capitol.

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) (arrived late)
Sen. Donzella James (35th)
Sen. Fran Millar (40th)
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd)
Sen. Jesse Stone (23rd)
Sen. Horacena Tate (38th) (arrived late)

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

NOTE: Sen. Tate (38th) arrived late at 3:12 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Brass (28th) arrived late at 3:13 p.m.

SB 362 (Sen. Tippins, 37th, LC 33 7285S) – Relating to education, so as to provide for the establishment of an innovative assessment pilot program...

Chairman Tippins (37th) presented the bill. It establishes an innovative assessment pilot program.

Sen. Millar (40th) asked if there is any relief in taking other assessments and if it needs to be placed in the bill. Sen. Tippins (37th) answered that there is relief and that could be negotiated through the contract with the Department of Education.

Guest speakers spoke in favor of the bill:

Superintendent Richard Woods, Georgia Department of Education

Sen. Stone (23rd) moved **DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE**. Sen. James (35th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

SB 362 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 33 7285S)

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

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

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

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND YOUTH
February 12, 2018

The Senate Committee on Education and Youth met on Monday, February 12, 2018, at 3:00 p.m. in room 450 of the State Capitol.

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) (arrived late)
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd)
Sen. Jesse Stone (23rd) (arrived late)

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

Chairman Tippins (37th) called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

HEARING ONLY

SB 97 (Sen. Parent, 42nd, LC 33 7320S) – Relating to functions and authority of lead agency and the Department of Early Care and Learning regarding early care and learning, so as to expand child care subsidies from one year to two years for parents in a job training or educational program...

Sen. Parent (42nd) presented the bill. The bill expands child care subsidies for parents in a job training or educational program.

Sen. Brass (28th) asked how there are no additional required state funds.

NOTE: Sen. Millar (40th) arrived late at 3:11 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Stone (23rd) arrived late at 3:13 p.m.

Sen. Black (8th) asked if there are child care programs at some of the Technical Colleges and facilities. Sen. Parent (42nd) stated that this substitute is tailored towards those career initiatives in high demand and targets where workforce development is needed.

Sen. Millar (40th) questioned the percentage of child care providers that are quality related.

Sen. Tippins (37th) asked what the current time limit is that CAPS is paying now and if there is any auditing process to determine eligibility. He then proposed a random audit for the program. Ray Higgins, from the Department of Early Child Care and Learning, stated the Department is attempting to move towards this on July 1st.

Guest speakers spoke in favor of the bill:
Ray Higgins, Department of Early Child Care and Learning
Katie Laudes, Georgia Statewide Preschool Network
Pam Tatum, Quality Care for Children
Hanah Goldbery, GEEARS

SB 97 HEARING ONLY (LC 33 7320S)

SB 235 (Sen. James, 35th, LC 41 1051) – An Act to amend Part 15 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to miscellaneous provisions regarding elementary and secondary education, so as to strongly encourage that youth athletes participating in gridiron football be equipped with and wear a helmet...

Sen. James (35th) presented the bill. The bill encourages the youth athletes playing football to be issued helmets by their schools with at least a four-star rating on the Virginia Tech 5 Helmet Ratings scale.

Sen. Millar (40th) moved **DO PASS**. Sen. Parent (42nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

SB 235 DO PASS (LC 41 1051)

HB 273 (Rep. Douglas, 78th, LC 33 7071S) – An Act to amend Part 15 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to miscellaneous provisions under the "Quality Basic Education Act," so as to provide for a daily recess for students in kindergarten and grades one through five; to provide for related matters...

Rep. Douglas (78th) presented the bill. The bill requires thirty minutes of recess for K-5th grade students.

Sen. Tippins (37th) stated an amendment would be added to change line 13 from 2017 to change those dates from 2018 to 2019.

Guest speakers spoke in favor of the bill:
Polly McKinney, Voices for Georgia's Children
Pamela Perkins, Interfaith Children's Movement
Josh Stephens, Professional Association of Georgia Educators

Sen. Wilkinson (50th) moved to amend the bill. Sen. Millar (40th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

Sen. Wilkinson (50th) move that **HB 273 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE**. Sen. Brass (28th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

HB 273 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 33 7071S)

SB 401 LC 33 7316S (Sen. Tippins, 37th) - Relating to recognition of advanced proficiency/honors courses and counseling and development of individual graduation plans, so as to provide for guidance in career oriented aptitudes and career interests in developing an individual graduation plan...

Sen. Tippins (37th) presented the bill explaining that it better records student data, monitors student enrollment, and modifies career awareness program.

Sen. Millar (40th) commented on his bill years ago and the intent to review counseling programs.

SB 401 HEARING ONLY

Chairman Tippins (37th) adjourned the meeting at 3:45 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 14, 2018

The Senate Committee on Education and Youth met on Wednesday, February 14, 2018, at 4:00 p.m. in room 450 of the State Capitol.

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)

Chairman Tippins (37th) called the meeting to order at 4:09 p.m.

HEARING ONLY

SB 361 (Sen. Williams, 27th, LC 33 7209 ER) – Relating to elementary and secondary education, so as to provide for freedom of religious speech for students and faculty members in public schools...

Sen. Williams (27th) presented the bill. He spoke on the importance of protecting religious freedoms in Georgia. Additionally, he read aloud some of the emails he received from students, parents, teachers, and other individuals in support of the bill.

Sen. Millar (40th) asked what current state law is on different sections. He commented that it is possible the State of Georgia has the statute and institutions are not following it.

Sen. Parent (42nd) questioned whether or not prayer in Coach Smalls incident was student initiated.

Sen. Brass (28th) expressed concern with protecting or preventing volunteer groups from coming in and helping students and teachers learn how to lead and pray.

Sen. Tippins (37th) commented that this was an issue twenty years ago. This is a federal law issue and will not be interpreted by state or local rules.

Sen. Millar (40th) commented that there is a big difference between freedom of expression of a student and freedom of expression of an employee, such as with kneeling at Kennesaw State.

Sen. Tippins (37th) mentioned the Florida Statute that gives the employee complete freedom of religion and refers it back to the Civil Rights Act of 1965. He stated the problem with that is the appearance of establishment of religion with a gray area that the Courts have not completely interpreted.

Sen. Williams (27th) commented that the vast majority of the bill protects the students, and that he believes that we need to be in Courts testifying on this issue.

SB 361 HEARING ONLY

SB 401 (Sen. Tippins, 37th, LC 33 7316S) – An Act to amend Code Section 20-2-327 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to recognition of advanced proficiency/honors courses and counseling and development of individual graduation plans...

Sen. Tippins (37th) presented the bill. He stated that this is the substitute from the changes made at the last meeting.

Guest speakers spoke in favor of the bill:
Chuck Clay, Georgia Education Coalition

Sen. Wilkinson (50th) moved **DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE**. Sen. Sims (12th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

SB 401 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE LC 33 7316S

HEARING ONLY

SB 384 (Sen. Williams, 27th, LC 33 7177) – To other educational programs under the "Quality Basic Education Act," so as to authorize home study students to participate in extracurricular and interscholastic activities...

Sen. Williams (27th) presented the bill. He explained that this bill allows students that are being homeschooled to participate in athletics and extracurricular activities that are going on in schools. Sen. Williams (27th) clarified the residency requirement is the same as if they were in a public school. Additionally, there is a provision of a six-month waiting period to prevent students who are enrolled in public school and not making grades to not withdraw and enter into athletics as a homeschooled student.

Sen. Wilkinson (50th) asked if homeschooled students are only allowed to play in school districts in which they are zoned for. Sen. Williams (27th) clarified that schools would not be able to draft students from different school districts.

Sen. Black (8th) asked if Sen. Williams (27th) has had any contact with Georgia High School Association. He expressed concerns about the age of students playing. Sen. Millar (40th) clarified that lines 102-104 allow open enrollment if the district approves it.

Sen. Stone (23rd) asked why he drew the line at homeschooled and did not include private schools. Sen. Williams (27th) explained that many private school students have more access to sports teams and homeschooled students do not. He suggested recreational teams as an option.

Sen. Sims (12th) asked Legislative Counsel if this has been a bill in the past and what happened to it. Betsy Howerton, from the Office of Legislative Counsel, stated there have been many in the past and some have passed one chamber, but not both.

Sen. Tippins (37th) stated he would like the legal answer on the question Sen. Stone (23rd) mentioned on equal access for private school students and asked for further clarification on academic accountability.

Sen. Tippins (37th) asked about having a verified academic requirement on these students and not just parents' word. He then asked if there is a discipline issue and who is responsible for disciplinary action, and said that he wanted this issue sorted out.

Guest speakers spoke in favor of the bill:
Angela Palm, Georgia School Boards Association

SB 384 HEARING ONLY

Chairman Tippins (37th) adjourned the meeting at 5:09 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 21, 2018

The Senate Committee on Education and Youth met on Wednesday, February 21, 2018, at 3:00 p.m. in room 450 of the State Capitol.

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)
Sen. Fran Millar (40th)
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd)
Sen. Jesse Stone (23rd)
Sen. Horacena Tate (38th)

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

Chairman Tippins (37th) called the meeting to order at 3:17 p.m.

HEARING ONLY

SB 384 (Sen. Williams, 27th, LC 33 7177) – Relating to other educational programs under the "Quality Basic Education Act," so as to authorize home study students to participate in extracurricular and interscholastic activities...

Sen. Williams (28th) presented the bill. The bill would allow students that are being homeschooled to participate in athletics and extracurricular activities that are going on in schools.

Robin Hines, from the Georgia High School Association, said that certain problems may arise if homeschooled students were allowed to participate. Noting problems such as academic standards not being monitored, disciplined, and co-curricular components of extracurricular activities. He noted that there could be potential disadvantages to public school students. Some public school administrators said that if the public school curricula are not good enough for home school students, then why should the sports programs be good enough.

Sen. Millar (40th) commented that it sounded more like they are more concerned with the institution than the student. He then asked if students passed milestone would that be acceptable to the Georgia High School Association. Mr. Hines stated that is not how eligibility for playing sports is determined.

Sen. Millar (40th) asked how to discipline a student not being homeschooled and whether if they signed some sort of document, they would become subject to the same rules as a public school student. Mr. Hines stated there is something about school culture.

Sen. Parent (42nd) asked if there are any home schooled leagues that compete against each other forming other teams and if it is possible to do that. Mr. Hines stated that he is not familiar, but there is the Georgia Independent Christian Athletic Association that has different levels that participate with each other. They do not follow the same eligibility requirements.

Sen. Sims (12th) asked if there is a huge groundswell for homeschooled participation and if there is a group that wants this. Sen. Williams (27th) stated there is a subsection of homeschooled students that do not want to be affiliated with public schools, but there is also a group now that wants a better-rounded student. Sen. Sims (12th) asked if we had already addressed this.

Sen. James (35th) said that her parents chose to send her and her sisters to private schools that did not have sports and activities, but it was their choice. If parents make the choice to send kids to private school or to homeschool them, then they should make the choice to get involved with outside athletic teams.

Guest speakers spoke in favor of the bill:
Cole Muzio, Family Policy Alliance

Guest speakers spoke against the bill:
John Zohner, Georgia School Superintendents Association
Dr. Robert Costly, Butts County School Superintendent
Jimmy Stokes, Georgia Association of Educational Leaders
Scott Biermann, Georgia School Boards Association

SB 384 HEARING ONLY

Chairman Tippins (37th) adjourned the meeting at 4:02 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, 2018

The Senate Committee on Education and Youth met on Thursday, February 22, 2018, at 1:00 p.m. in room 125 of the State Capitol.

SENATORS PRESENT

Sen. John Wilkinson (50th), Vice-Chairman

Sen. Freddie Powell-Sims (12th), Secretary

Sen. Ellis Black (8th)

Sen. Matt Brass (28th) (arrived late)

Sen. Donzella James (35th)

Sen. Elena Parent (42nd) (arrived late)

Sen. Jesse Stone (23rd)

Sen. Horacena Tate (38th)

NOTE: Sen. Tippins (37th), Chairman, was absent.

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

Vice Chairman Wilkinson (50th) called the meeting to order at 1:09 p.m.

SB 456 (Sen. Mullis, 53rd, LC 33 7365) – Relating to other educational programs under the "Quality Basic Education Act," so as to provide that no high school...

Sen. Mullis (53rd) presented the bill. The bill would create a level playing field and create a special league for separate types and sizes of schools.

Sen. Stone (23rd) made the motion **DO PASS**. Sen. James (35th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

SB 456 DO PASS (LC 33 7365)

SB 457 (Sen. Tate, 38th, LC 41 1401) - Relating to school safety plans, so as to require every public school and private school to conduct drills on the execution of school safety plans based upon guidance from the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency...

Sen. Tate (38th) presented the bill. The idea came from a young man who felt like a code red safety drill would be important in his school. The bill would require every public school to conduct a drill on the execution of school safety plans.

Sen. Tate (38th) asked the young man who provided the concept to address the Committee. Mr. Niles Francis commented that he would like to go to school feeling safe and protected. He stated that it would help for preparation of a dangerous event.

Sen. Wilkinson (50th) stated that the idea was very well articulated and on the right track.

NOTE: Sen. Brass (28th) arrived late at 1:11 p.m.

Sen. James (35th) commended Mr. Francis for his efforts.

Guest speakers spoke in favor of the bill:
Lou Erste, Department of Education

NOTE: Sen. Parent (42nd) arrived late at 1:18 p.m.

Sen. James (35th) made the motion **DO PASS**. Sen. Stone (23rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

SB 457 DO PASS (LC 41 1401)

Vice Chairman Wilkinson (50th) adjourned the meeting at 1:28 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 5, 2018

The Senate Committee on Education and Youth met on Monday, March 5, 2018 at 3:00 p.m. in room 450 of the State Capitol.

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) (arrived late)
Sen. Horacena Tate (38th)

Chairman Tippins (37th) called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

HEARING ONLY

HB 743 (Rep. Clark, 98th, LC 33 7224S) - Relating to miscellaneous provisions under the "Quality Basic Education Act," so as to provide for guidelines and other relevant materials to inform students participating in interscholastic athletic activities about the nature and warning signs of sudden cardiac arrest...

Rep. Clark (98th) presented the bill. The bill sets guidelines to inform high school students who participate in interscholastic activities about signs of sudden cardiac arrest.

NOTE: Sen. Stone (23rd) arrived late at 3:11 p.m.

Sen. Millar (40th) questioned the language in the bill regarding if a student was pulled out of an activity if the young person were to faint. Rep. Clark (98th) explained that the language of the bill gave the school and coaches more flexibility with their actions.

HB 743 HEARING ONLY (LC 33 7224S)

HEARING ONLY

HB 852 (Rep. Smith, 41st, LC 33 7341S) - Relating to organization of schools and school systems under the "Quality Basic Education Act," so as to provide for a student's continued enrollment in a public school under certain circumstances...

Rep. Smith (41st) presented the bill. This bill would provide for a student to continue enrollment in a school even after moving to a different attendance zone.

Sen. Black (8th) questioned if this would allow for the crossing of jurisdictional lines. Rep. Smith (41st) stated that it did not affect them but could be allowed.

Sen. Wilkinson (50th) questioned if they move with one month left of their junior year does it allow for them to continue for their senior year. Rep. Smith (41st) stated that it would allow them to finish their junior year but not their senior year.

Guest speakers spoke in favor of the bill:

Cita Cook, Retired Educator

HB 852 HEARING ONLY (LC 33 7341S)

HEARING ONLY

HB 740 (Rep. Nix, 69th, LC 33 7280S) - Relating to improved student learning environment and discipline in elementary and secondary education, so as to require local school systems to conduct certain screenings, assessments, and reviews prior to expelling or assigning a student in kindergarten through third grade to out-of-school suspension for five or more consecutive or cumulative days during a school year...

Rep. Nix (69th) presented the bill. This bill requires local school systems to conduct a multi-tiered system of support (MTSS) on a child prior to expelling or suspending them for more than five consecutive or cumulative days.

Sen. Millar (40th) questioned if the multi-tiered system of support was statewide. Rep. Nix (69th) stated that it was. Sen. Millar (40th) further questioned what the system of support could do. Garry McGibboney from the Department of Education assisted in answering this question. Mr. McGibboney stated that the four tier system would provide response intervention.

Sen. Brass (28th) questioned if in school suspension was an option. Mr. McGibboney stated it was not something every school had in place.

Sen. James (35th) expressed her concerns about expelling a child in kindergarten.

Guest speakers spoke in favor of the bill:

Erica Sitkoff, Voices for Georgia's Children

Jane Robbins, American Principles Project

Rachel Davidson, Office of the Child Advocate

HB 740 HEARING ONLY (LC 33 7280S)

HEARING ONLY

HB 763 (Rep. Nix, 69th, LC 33 7146) - Relating to compulsory attendance for students in elementary and secondary education, so as to expand the student attendance protocol committees to school climate; to provide for recommendations; to provide for periodic review of recommendations...

Rep. Nix (69th) presented the bill. This bill expands current student attendance policy to include analysis of school climate before a student is expelled. Irene Munn, General Counsel and Director of Policy of the Lt. Governor's office, suggested an amendment to promote the collaboration of local entities to determine a plan for improving school safety.

Sen. Millar (40th) questioned the school climate factor. He was in question as to if there was a "best practices" method that could be shared from the Department of Education.

Guest speakers spoke in favor of the bill:
Jane Robbins, American Principles Project
HB 763 HEARING ONLY (LC 33 7146S)

Chairman Tippins (37th) adjourned the meeting at 3:59 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 7, 2018

The Senate Committee on Education and Youth met on Wednesday, March 7, 2018 at 3:00 p.m. in room 450 of the State Capitol.

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)
Sen. Fran Millar (40th) (arrived late)
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd)
Sen. Jesse Stone (23rd) (arrived late)

NOTE: Sen. Ellis Black (8th) and Sen. Horacena Tate (38th) were absent.

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

HR 898 (Rep. Coleman, 97th, LC 33 7126) - Creating the Joint Study Committee on the Establishment of a State Accreditation Process...

Rep. Coleman (97th) presented the bill. This bill would create a Joint Study Committee to examine the establishment of a state accreditation process.

Sen. Sims (12th) made a motion **DO PASS**. Sen. James (35th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (5-0). Sen. Tippins (37th) is the Senate Sponsor.

HB 898 DO PASS (LC 33 7126)

NOTE: Sen. Millar (40th) arrived late at 3:10 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Stone (23rd) arrived late at 3:10 p.m.

HEARING ONLY

HB 655 (Rep. Williams, 145th, LC 33 7090) - Relating to miscellaneous provisions under the "Quality Basic Education Act," so as to require every public school to post a sign containing the toll-free telephone number operated by the Division of Family and Children Services of the Department of Human Services to receive reports of child abuse or neglect...

Rep. Williams (145th) presented the bill. The bill requires public schools to post a sign with a toll-free number for reporting child abuse or neglect to the Division of Family and Children Services.

Sen. James (35th) made a comment to publicly thank Rep. Williams (145th) for introducing this legislation.

HB 655 HEARING ONLY (LC 33 7090)

HEARING ONLY

HB 494 (Rep. Dempsey, 13th, LC 33 7220S) - Relating to early care and learning, so as to revise certain provisions relating to the safety of children in early care and education programs; to authorize hearsay in preliminary hearings regarding emergency closure of a program or the emergency placement of a monitor or monitors...

Rep. Dempsey (13th) presented the bill. This bill authorizes hearsay in preliminary hearings in regards to an emergency closing of an early care or education program. It would also provide that background checks are not valid if said individual was separated from employment with an early care or educational program within 180 days.

Guest speakers spoke in favor of the bill:

Ray Higgins, Department of Early Care and Learning

Sen. Parent (42nd) asked if it was necessary to add certain crimes. Rep. Dempsey (13th) answered that there was already a list of crimes that were already included.

HB 494 HEARING ONLY (LC 33 7220S)

HEARING ONLY

HB 853 (Rep. Dempsey, 13th, LC 33 7188) - Relating to the short title and purpose of the "Quality Basic Education Act," so as to provide that children placed in psychiatric residential treatment facilities pursuant to a physician's order may not be charged tuition; to provide for eligibility for enrollment...

Rep. Dempsey (13th) presented the bill. This bill would provide that all children placed in psychiatric residential treatment facilities by doctor's orders may not be charged tuition.

Sen. Millar (40th) questioned if these students were being charged now. Rep. Dempsey (13th) stated that in some cases, they were being charged. Sometimes the state facilities are public and receive those funds but those funds do not always go to the child.

Sen. Parent (42nd) asked if the kids that are placed in the facility are educated to the same standards. Rep. Dempsey (13th) responded that they were.

HB 853 HEARING ONLY (LC 33 7188)

Chairman Tippins (37th) adjourned the meeting at 3:38 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 12, 2018

The Senate Committee on Education and Youth met on Monday, March 12, 2018 at 3:00 p.m. in room 450 of the State Capitol.

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)
Sen. Fran Millar (40th)
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd)
Sen. Jesse Stone (23rd) (left early)
Sen. Horacena Tate (38th)

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

Chairman Tippins (37th) called the meeting to order at 3:07 p.m.

HB 494 (Rep. Dempsey, 13th, LC 33 7423S) - Relating to early care and learning, so as to revise certain provisions relating to the safety of children in early care and education programs; to authorize hearsay in preliminary hearings regarding emergency closure of a program or the emergency placement of a monitor or monitors...

Rep. Dempsey (13th) presented the bill. This bill authorizes hearsay in preliminary hearings in regards to an emergency closing of an early care or education program. It would also provide that background checks are not valid if said individual was separated from employment with an early care or educational program within 180 days.

Sen. Stone (23rd) provided clarification for the use of hearsay in such preliminary meetings. He stated that it would be allowed in some cases because these are temporary hearings and it may be allowed on both sides of the case.

Guest speakers spoke in opposition to the bill:
Ray Higgins, Department of Early Care and Learning

Sen. Tippins (37th) moved to amend the bill by striking the word “may” on line 254 and adding it to line 255. Sen. Millar (40th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

Sen. Stone (23rd) moved **DO PASS AS AMENDED**. Sen. Parent (42nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (8-0). Sen. Wilkinson (50th) is the Senate Sponsor.

HB 494 DO PASS AS AMENDED (LC 33 7423S)

HB 655 (Rep. Williams, 145th, LC 33 7412S) - Relating to miscellaneous provisions under the "Quality Basic Education Act," so as to require every public school to post a sign containing the toll-free telephone number operated by the Division of Family and Children Services of the Department of Human Services to receive reports of child abuse or neglect...

Rep. Williams (145th) presented the bill. The bill requires an annual age-appropriate sexual abuse and sexual assault awareness education to be taught in grades K-9. This bill would also require public schools to post a sexual abuse and assault awareness poster with the number for the Department of Family and Children Services.

Sen. Brass (28th) made a motion **DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE**. Sen. Millar (40th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (8-0). Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) is the Senate Sponsor.

HB 655 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 33 7412S)

HB 740 (Rep. Nix, 69th, LC 33 7422S) - Relating to improved student learning environment and discipline in elementary and secondary education, so as to require local school systems to conduct certain screenings, assessments, and reviews prior to expelling or assigning a student in kindergarten through third grade to out-of-school suspension for five or more consecutive or cumulative days during a school year...

Rep. Nix (69th) presented the bill. This bill requires local school systems to conduct a multi-tiered system of support (MTSS) on a child prior to expelling or suspending them for more than five consecutive or cumulative days.

Sen. Millar (40th) questioned language in the bill in regards to drugs. He suggested an amendment to insert the word "illegal" in front of the word drugs.

Sen. Millar (40th) made the motion to amend the bill. Sen. Stone (23rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

Sen. Millar (40th) made the motion **DO PASS AS AMENDED**. Sen. Stone (23rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (8-0). Sen. Dugan (30th) is the Senate Sponsor.

HB 740 DO PASS AS AMENDED (LC 33 7422S)

HB 743 (Rep. Clark, 98th, LC 33 7224S) - Relating to miscellaneous provisions under the "Quality Basic Education Act," so as to provide for guidelines and other relevant materials to inform students participating in interscholastic athletic activities about the nature and warning signs of sudden cardiac arrest...

Rep. Clark (98th) presented the bill. The bill sets guidelines to inform high school students, who participate in interscholastic activities, about signs of sudden cardiac arrest.

Sen. Stone (23rd) made the motion **DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE**. Sen. Brass (28th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (8-0). Sen. Beach (21st) is the Senate Sponsor.

HB 743 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 33 7224S)

HB 852 (Rep. Smith, 41st, LC 33 7341S) - Relating to organization of schools and school systems under the "Quality Basic Education Act," so as to provide for a student's continued enrollment in a public school under certain circumstances...

Rep. Smith (41st) presented the bill. The bill allows for a student to continue enrollment in a certain public school after moving to a different attendance zone.

Sen. Millar (40th) moved **DO PASS**. Sen. Brass (28th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (8-0). Sen. Brass (28th) is the Senate Sponsor.

HB 852 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 33 7341S)

HEARING ONLY

HB 759 (Rep. Turner, 21st, LC 33 7223) - Relating to qualifications for the Georgia Special Needs Scholarship Program, so as to revise the prior school year requirement...

Rep. Turner (21st) presented the bill. The bill would add an exception to the qualifications set forth for the Georgia Special Needs Scholarship Program.

Sen. Sims (12th) questioned how special needs was defined in the bill due to concerns of misuse of the term. Rep. Turner (21st) answered by stating that there is a list of special needs in the underlying statute. They would have supporting documents from a psychiatrist.

HB 759 HEARING ONLY (LC 33 7223)

HEARING ONLY

HB 787 (Hilton, 95th, LC 33 7263S) - Relating to education, so as to revise certain provisions relative to charter schools; to provide that state charter schools may receive services from regional educational service agencies; to revise provisions relating to a code of principles and standards for charter school authorizers; to revise funding for state chartered special schools and state charter schools...

Rep. Hilton (95th) presented the bill. This bill would amend the formula for funding charter schools and provide additional funding for schools who project to exceed fifteen

percent student growth. It also creates a grant program for certain eligible students who are enrolled in a University System of Georgia institution.

NOTE: Sen. Stone (23rd) left the meeting early at 4:00 p.m.

Sen. Millar (40th) questioned the use of existing money. Rep. Hilton (95th) clarified that the intent was not to use new money but use it differently.

HB 787 HEARING ONLY (LC 33 7263S)

Chairman Tippins (37th) adjourned the meeting at 4:07 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 14, 2018

The Senate Committee on Education and Youth met on Wednesday, March 14, 2018 at 3:00 p.m. in room 450 of the State Capitol.

SENATORS PRESENT:

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

NOTE: Sen. Ellis Black (8th), Sen. Matt Brass (28th), and Sen. Fran Millar (40th) were absent.

Chairman Tippins (37th) called the meeting to order at 3:11 p.m.

HB 718 (Rep. Scott, 76th, LC 44 0816ERS) - Relating to compulsory attendance, so as to excuse certain absences of students with parents in service of the armed forces of the United States, the Reserves, or the National Guard or veterans of same...

Rep. Scott (76th) presented the bill. This bill amends attendance requirements to allow for military family students to have a certain number of excused absences with no consequences.

Guest speakers spoke in favor of the bill:
Jil Hines, Coalition to Salute America's Heroes

Sen. James (35th) made a motion **DO PASS**. Sen. Parent (42nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (6-0). Sen. Anderson (43rd) is the Senate Sponsor.

HB 718 DO PASS LC 44 0816ERS

HB 739 (Rep. Williams, 168th, LC 33 7119) - Relating to employment of certificated professional personnel in elementary and secondary education, so as to give a short title to a Code section relating to qualification for certain certificates for military spouses...

Rep. Williams (168th) presented the bill. This bill only renames the cited code section to honor Ms. Tracy Rainey. It will otherwise be known as the Tracy Rainey Act.

Sen. Parent (42nd) made a motion **DO PASS**. Sen. Tate (38th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (6-0). Sen. Watson (1st) is the Senate Sponsor.

HB 739 DO PASS (LC 33 7119)

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

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND YOUTH
March 19, 2018

The Senate Committee on Education and Youth met on Monday, March 19, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. in room 450 of the State Capitol.

SENATORS PRESENT:

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

NOTE: Sen. Ellis Black (8th) and Sen. Donzella James (35th) were absent.

Chairman Tippins (37th) called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

HEARING ONLY

HB 853 (Rep. Dempsey, 13th, LC 33 7443S) - Relating to the short title and purpose of the "Quality Basic Education Act," so as to provide that children placed in psychiatric residential treatment facilities pursuant to a physician's order may not be charged tuition; to provide for eligibility for enrollment...

Rep. Dempsey (13th) presented the bill. This bill provides that children who are placed in a residential treatment facility by recommendation of a physician or guardian may not have to pay school tuition.

Guest speakers spoke in favor of the bill:

Garry McGiboney, Georgia Department of Education

HB 853 HEARING ONLY (LC 33 7443S)

HB 763 (Rep. Nix, 69th, LC 33 7146) - Relating to compulsory attendance for students in elementary and secondary education, so as to expand the student attendance protocol committees to school climate; to provide for recommendations...

Rep. Nix (69th) presented the bill. This bill expands current student attendance policy to include analysis of school climate before a student is expelled. Irene Munn, General Counsel and Director of Policy of the Lt. Governor's office, suggested an amendment to promote the collaboration of local entities to determine a plan for improving school safety.

NOTE: Sen. Stone (23rd) arrived late at 4:16 p.m.

Sen. Brass (28th) moved **DO PASS** on the amendment. Sen. Millar (40th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Sen. Brass made a motion **DO PASS AS AMENDED**. Sen. Millar (40th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (7-0). Sen. Brass (28th) is the Senate sponsor.

HB 763 DO PASS AS AMENDED (LC 33 7146)

HB 759 (Rep. Turner, 21st, LC 33 7447S) - Relating to qualifications for the Georgia Special Needs Scholarship Program, so as to revise the prior school year requirement...

Rep. Turner (21st) presented the bill. The bill allows for the addition of an exception of some qualifications for the Georgia Special Needs Scholarship.

Sen. Parent (42nd) made a motion **DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE**. Sen. Brass (28th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (7-0). Sen. Millar is the Senate sponsor.

HB 759 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 33 7447S)

HEARING ONLY

HB 787 (Rep. Hilton, 95th, LC 33 7419S) - Relating to education, so as to revise certain provisions relative to charter schools; to provide that state charter schools may receive services from regional educational service agencies; to revise provisions relating to a code of principles and standards for charter school authorizers; to revise funding for state chartered special schools and state charter schools...

Rep. Hilton (95th) presented the bill. This bill would amend the formula for charter school funding and provide funding for charter schools that are expected to increase by two percent and provide that they may receive services from certain regional educational service industries. Mr. Gregg Stevens of the State Charter School Commission joined Rep. Hilton (95th) in presenting in front of the Committee.

Sen. Millar (40th) questioned the capital funding for virtual schools in Georgia. Mr. Stevens answered by stating that it would require an extra amount of money to fund needs based for virtual equipment. Virtual schools require and provide some sort of computer for all students.

Sen. Sims (12th) questioned if charter schools relied upon independent, out-of-state operators to come into the state. Rep. Hilton (95th) clarified that charter school operators that come in and want to open in Georgia cannot do so without necessary funding.

Mr. Stevens stated that funding per pupil is so low that it is very difficult for charter schools to operate at a high quality.

Sen. Tippins (37th) questioned Mr. Stevens on what amount of funding would be appropriate for charter schools to operate at such quality.

NOTE: Sen. Millar (40th) left the meeting at 5:15 p.m.

Guest speakers spoke in favor of the bill:

Tariq Abdullah, The Community Academy for Architecture and Design

Gavin Samms, Genesis Innovation Academy

Gene Dunn, Coweta Charter Academy

Richardean Anderson, Fulton Leadership Academy

Abigail Caffee, School for Arts Infused Learning

Kari Shrock, International Academy of Smyrna

Beth McCamy, Parents for Virtual Education

Susan Edwards, Georgia Cyber Academy

Staci Kimmons, Georgia Cyber Academy

Paige Stoeker, International Charter School of Atlanta

Margaret Ciccareli, Professional Association of Georgia Educators

Chuck Clay, Hall Booth Smith, PC.

Guest speakers spoke in opposition to the bill:

Cecily Harsh-Kinnane, Public Education Matters Georgia

Dr. Sid Chapman, Georgia Association of Educators

HB 787 HEARING ONLY (LC 33 7419S)

Chairman Tippins (37th) adjourned the meeting at 6:03 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 23, 2018

The Senate Committee on Education and Youth met at 8:00 a.m. on Friday, March 23, 2018 in room 450 of the State Capitol.

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)

NOTE: Sen. Donzella James (35th) and Sen. Horacena Tate (38th) were absent.

Chairman Tippins (37th) called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m.

HB 853 (Rep. Dempsey, 13th, LC 33 7466S) - Relating to the short title and purpose of the "Quality Basic Education Act," so as to provide that children placed in psychiatric residential treatment facilities pursuant to a physician's order may not be charged tuition; to provide for eligibility for enrollment...

Sen. Tippins (37th) presented the bill. This bill provides that children who are placed in a residential treatment facility by recommendation of a physician or guardian may not have to pay school tuition.

Sen. Millar (40th) made a motion **DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE**. Sen. Brass (28th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (7-0). Sen. Brass (28th) is the Senate sponsor.

HB 853 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 33 7466S)

HB 787 (Rep. Hilton, 95th, LC 33 7467S) - Relating to education, so as to revise certain provisions relative to charter schools; to provide that state charter schools may receive services from regional educational service agencies; to revise provisions relating to a code of principles and standards for charter school authorizers; to revise funding for state chartered special schools and state charter schools...

Sen. Tippins (37th) presented the bill. This bill would amend the formula for funding charter schools and provide additional funding for schools who project to exceed fifteen percent student growth. It also creates a grant program for certain eligible students who are enrolled in a University System of Georgia institution.

Sen. Brass (28th) made a motion **DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE**. Sen. Parent (42nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (7-0). Sen. Millar (40th) is the Senate sponsor.

HB 787 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 33 7467S)

Chairman Tippins (37th) adjourned the meeting at 8:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Samantha Nix, Recording Secretary