

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE ENVIRONMENT
MEMBERS - 2018**

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Sen. Lindsey Tippins, District 37
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Sen. Matt Brass, District 28, Secretary
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Sen. Frank Ginn, District 47
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Sen. Marty Harbin, District 16
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Sen. Steve Henson, District 41
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Sen. Jack Hill, District 4
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MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

TUESDAY, JANUARY 30, 2018

The Senate Committee on Natural Resources and the Environment held its first meeting of the 2018 Legislative Session on Tuesday, January 30, 2018, at 2:00 p.m. in Room 310 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sen. Tyler Harper (7th), Chairman
Sen. Bill Heath (31st), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Marty Harbin (16th)
Sen. Steve Henson (41st) (Arrived late)
Sen. Jack Hill (4th)
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th)
Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th)

NOTE: Sen. Matt Brass (28th), Secretary, Sen. Frank Ginn (47th), and Sen. John Wilkinson (50th) were absent.

Chairman Harper (7th) called the meeting to order at 2:08 p.m.

[SB 332](#) (Sen. Harper, 7th, LC 41 1290) Department of Natural Resources; hunter mentor program; provide

This was a **hearing-only** bill.

Chairman Harper (7th) called upon those who signed up to speak to the bill.

Speaking for the bill was:

John Bowers, Georgia Department of Natural Resources - Wildlife Resources Division
Mike Worley, Georgia Wildlife Federation

Senator Henson (41st) arrived at 2:16 p.m.

Having no further business, Chairman Harper (7th) adjourned the meeting at 2:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Tyler Harper (7th), Chairman

/s/ Diana Hauser, Recording Secretary

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2018

The Senate Committee on Natural Resources and the Environment held its second meeting of the 2018 Legislative Session on Tuesday, February 6, 2018, at 2:00 p.m. in Room 310 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sen. Tyler Harper (7th), Chairman
Sen. Bill Heath (31st), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Matt Brass (28th), Secretary
Sen. Frank Ginn (47th)
Sen. Steve Henson (41st)
Sen. Jack Hill (4th) (Arrived late)
Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th)
Sen. John Wilkinson (50th) (Arrived late)

NOTE: Sen. Marty Harbin (16th) and Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th) were absent.

Chairman Harper (7th) called the meeting to order at 2:08 p.m.

[HB 275](#) (Rep. Dubnik, 29th, LC 44 0712ERS) Game and fish; rules and regulations used to establish criminal violations; change provisions

Chairman Harper (7th) called upon Rep. Matt Dubnik (29th) to speak to the substitute for **HB 275 (LC 44 0712ERS)**.

Sen. Wilkinson (50th) arrived at 2:10 p.m. and Sen. Hill (4th) arrived at 2:14 p.m.

Speaking for the bill was:

Lieutenant Colonel Jeff Weaver, Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement

Sen. Tippins (37th) moved **DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 44 0712ERS)**. Sen. Ginn (47th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with a vote of 7-0. Sen. Harper (7th) is the Senate sponsor.

HB 275 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 44 0712ERS)

[SB 332](#) (Sen. Harper, 7th, LC 44 0710S) Department of Natural Resources; hunter mentor program; provide

Chairman Harper (7th) called upon those who signed up to speak to the bill.

Speaking for the bill was:

David Blanton, Executive Producer of Realtree Outdoors

Chairman Harper (7th) reviewed the proposed amendment to the substitute, and then asked if any members of the Committee had questions or comments. A brief discussion followed.

Sen. Ginn (47th) moved **to accept the amendment (AM 44 0052)**. Sen. Brass (28th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with a vote of 7-0.

Sen. Ginn (47th) moved **DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 44 0730S)**. Sen. Brass (28th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with a vote of 7-0.

SB 332 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 44 0730S)

Having no further business, Chairman Harper (7th) adjourned the meeting at 2:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Matt Brass (28th), Secretary

/s/ Diana Hauser, Recording Secretary

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2018

The Senate Committee on Natural Resources and the Environment held its third meeting of the 2018 Legislative Session on Tuesday, February 13, 2018, at 2:00 p.m. in Room 310 of Coverdell Legislative Office Building.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sen. Tyler Harper (7th), Chairman
Sen. Bill Heath (31st), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Matt Brass (28th), Secretary
Sen. Frank Ginn (47th)
Sen. Marty Harbin (16th)
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th) (Arrived late)
Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th) (Arrived late)
Sen. John Wilkinson (50th)

NOTE: Sen. Jack Hill (4th) and Sen. Steve Henson (41st) were absent.

Chairman Harper (7th) called the meeting to order at 2:08 p.m.

SB 385 (Sen. Jones, 25th, LC 44 0745S) Solid Waste Disposal Facilities; surcharge imposed by host local governments; change

Chairman Harper (7th) called upon Sen. Burt Jones (25th) to speak on **SB 385 (LC 44 0745S)**.

Sen. Sims (12th) arrived at 2:18 p.m. and Sen. Tippins (37th) arrived at 2:19 p.m.

Speaking for the bill was:
Kathleen Bowen, ACCG

Speaking against the bill was:
Michael McPherson, GMA

Sen. Ginn (47th) moved **DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 44 0745S)**. Sen. Sims (12th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with a vote of 7-0.

SB 385 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 44 0745S)

Having no further business, Chairman Harper (7th) adjourned the meeting at 2:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Matt Brass (28th), Secretary

/s/ Diana Hauser, Recording Secretary

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2018

The Senate Committee on Natural Resources and the Environment held its fourth meeting of the 2018 Legislative Session on Tuesday, February 20, 2018, at 2:00 p.m. in Room 310 of Coverdell Legislative Office Building.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sen. Tyler Harper (7th), Chairman
Sen. Bill Heath (31st), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Matt Brass (28th), Secretary
Sen. Frank Ginn (47th) (Arrived late)
Sen. Marty Harbin (16th)
Sen. Jack Hill (4th) (Arrived late)
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th) (Arrived late)
Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th)
Sen. John Wilkinson (50th)

NOTE: Sen. Steve Henson (41st) was absent.

Chairman Harper (7th) called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

SB 404 (Sen. Brass, 28th, LC 41 1441S) Public Water Systems; charging or assessing a separate fee for standby water service for fire sprinkler system connections; prohibit county, municipal and other public water systems

This was a **hearing-only** bill.

Chairman Harper (7th) called upon Sen. Brass (28th) to speak to the substitute to **SB 404 (LC 41 1441S)**.

Sen. Sims (12th) arrived at 2:07 p.m., Sen. Ginn (47th) arrived at 2:09 p.m., and Sen. Hill (4th) arrived at 2:11 p.m.

Speaking for the bill was:
Tommy O. Morgan, Retired Fire Chief of Rockdale County

Speaking against the bill was:
Michael McPherson, Georgia Municipal Association
Pam Burnett, Vice President of Georgia Association of Water Professionals

Sen. Sims (12th) left the room at 2:13 p.m. and returned at 2:18 p.m.

Having no further business, Chairman Harper (7th) adjourned the meeting at 2:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Matt Brass (28th), Secretary

/s/ Diana Hauser, Recording Secretary

OFFICE OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
240 STATE CAPITOL
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334

CASEY CAGLE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

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

Dear David:

In accordance with the Senate Rules, the Senate Committee on Assignments hereby appoints Senator Dean Burke to serve as Ex-Officio for the Senate Natural Resources and Environment Committee meeting on February 22, 2018. This appointment shall expire upon adjournment of the committee meeting.

Sincerely,

/s/ Casey Cagle
Lt. Governor Casey Cagle
President of the Senate

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2018

The Senate Committee on Natural Resources and the Environment held its fifth meeting of the 2018 Legislative Session on Tuesday, February 22, 2018, at 4:00 p.m. in Room 310 of Coverdell Legislative Office Building.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sen. Tyler Harper (7th), Chairman
Sen. Bill Heath (31st), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Matt Brass (28th), Secretary (Arrived late)
Sen. Dean Burke (11th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Frank Ginn (47th) (Arrived late)
Sen. Marty Harbin (16th)
Sen. Steve Henson (41st) (Arrived late)
Sen. Jack Hill (4th)
Sen. John Wilkinson (50th)

NOTE: Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th) and Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th) were absent from the meeting.

Chairman Harper (7th) called the meeting to order at 4:19 p.m. with Sen. Burke (11th) serving as Ex-Officio. Sen. Burke (11th) left at 4:21 p.m. when Sen. Henson (41st) arrived.

[SR 778](#) (Sen. Gooch, 51st, LC 117 0209) US Congress; National Park Service; reliable, predictable stream of resources to address deferred maintenance needs; create

Chairman Harper (7th) spoke on behalf of Sen. Gooch (51st) on this bill.

Sen. Brass (28th) arrived at 4:24 p.m.

Speaking for the bill:
Bill Hartman, Southeast Tourism Society

Sen. Henson (41st) moved **DO PASS (LC 117 0209)**. Sen. Harbin (16th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with a vote of 6-0.

SR 778 DO PASS (LC 117 0209)

[SB 450](#) (Sen. Payne, 54th, LC 44 0713) Unlawful Enticement of Game; hunting in vicinity of feed or bait; remove definitions

Sen. Ginn (47th) arrived at 4:55 p.m.

Speaking for the bill:
William Woodall, Georgia Hunting and Fishing Association

Speaking against the bill was:
Mike Worthy, Georgia Wildlife Federation

Sen. Brass (28th) moved **DO PASS (LC 44 0713)**. The motion passed 5-2. Sen. Brass (28th), Sen. Ginn (47th), Sen. Harbin (16th), Sen. Hill (4th), and Sen. Wilkinson (50th) cast the yea votes. Sen. Heath (31st) and Sen. Henson (41st) cast the nay votes.

SB 450 DO PASS (LC 44 0713)

SB 404 (Sen. Brass, 28th, LC 41 1441S) **Public Water Systems; charging or assessing a separate fee for standby water service for fire sprinkler system connections; prohibit county, municipal and other public water systems**

Chairman Harper (7th) called upon Sen. Brass (28th) to speak to the substitute to **SB 404 (LC 41 1441S)**.

Sen. Heath (31st) moved **DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 41 1441S)**. Sen. Wilkinson (50th) seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-3. Sen. Brass (28th), Sen. Hill (4th), Sen. Wilkinson (50th), and Sen. Heath (31st) cast the yea votes. Sen. Ginn (47th), Sen. Harbin (16th), and Sen. Henson (41st) cast the nay votes.

SB 404 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 41 1441S)

Having no further business, Chairman Harper (7th) adjourned the meeting at 5:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Matt Brass (28th), Secretary

/s/ Diana Hauser, Recording Secretary

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

TUESDAY, MARCH 6, 2018

The Senate Committee on Natural Resources and the Environment held its sixth meeting of the 2018 Legislative Session on Tuesday, March 6, 2018, at 2:45 p.m. in Room 310 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sen. Tyler Harper (7th), Chairman
Sen. Bill Heath (31st), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Matt Brass (28th), Secretary
Sen. Frank Ginn (47th) (Left early)
Sen. Steve Henson (41st) (Arrived late)
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th)
Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th)
Sen. John Wilkinson (50th) (Arrived late)

NOTE: Sen. Marty Harbin (16th) and Sen. Jack Hill (4th) were absent from the meeting. Chairman Harper (7th) called the meeting to order at 2:51 p.m.

[HB 784](#) (Rep. Dubnik, 29th, LC 45 0034S) Specialty license plates; promote conservation of waterfowl populations and their habitats; establish

Chairman Harper (7th) called upon Rep. Matt Dubnik (29th) to speak on the bill.

Sen. Ginn (47th) moved **DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 45 0034S)**. Sen. Sims (12th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with a vote of 5-0. Sen. Brass (28th) is the Senate sponsor.

HB 784 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 45 0034S)

[HB 885](#) (Rep. McCall, 33rd, LC 44 0812S) Georgia Air Quality Act; limitations on powers of certain Board and Departments; revise certain provisions

Chairman Harper (7th) called upon Rep. Tom McCall (33rd) to speak to the bill.

Sen. Henson (41st) arrived at 2:56 p.m.

Sen. Tippins (37th) moved **DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 44 0812S)**. Sen. Ginn (47th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with a vote of 6-0. Sen. Ginn (47th) is the Senate sponsor.

HB 885 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 44 0812S)

HB 695 (Rep. Epps, 144th, LC 39 1713) Special license plates; Georgia Forestry Foundation; establish

Chairman Harper (7th) called upon Rep. Bubber Epps (144th) to speak to the bill.

Sen. Ginn (47th) left at 2:58 p.m. Sen. Wilkinson (50th) arrived at 3:02 p.m.

Speaking for the bill was:
Andres Villegas, Georgia Forestry Association

Sen. Henson (41st) moved **DO PASS (LC 39 1713)**. Sen. Brass (28th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with a vote of 6-0. Sen. John Kennedy (18th) is the Senate sponsor.
HB 695 DO PASS (LC 39 1713)

HB 665 (Rep. Lumsden, 12th, LC 41 1254) Abandoned vessels; revise notice requirements; provisions

Chairman Harper (7th) called upon Rep. Eddie Lumsden (12th) to speak to the bill.

Sen. Heath (31st) moved **DO PASS (LC 41 1254)**. Sen. Tippins (37th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with a vote of 6-0. Sen. Brass (28th) is the Senate sponsor.
HB 665 DO PASS (LC 41 1254)

Having no further business, Chairman Harper (7th) adjourned the meeting at 3:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Matt Brass (28th), Secretary

/s/ Diana Hauser, Recording Secretary

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

TUESDAY, MARCH 13, 2018

The Senate Committee on Natural Resources and the Environment held its seventh meeting of the 2018 Legislative Session on Tuesday, March 13, 2018, at 2:00 p.m. in Room 310 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sen. Tyler Harper (7th), Chairman
Sen. Bill Heath (31st), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Matt Brass (28th), Secretary (Arrived late)
Sen. Frank Ginn (47th)
Sen. Marty Harbin (16th)
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th)
Sen. John Wilkinson (50th)

NOTE: Sen. Steve Henson (41st), Sen. Jack Hill (4th), and Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th) were absent from the meeting.

Chairman Harper (7th) called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m.

[HB 792](#) (Rep. Rogers, 10th, LC 44 0878S) Waste management; sunset date for certain solid waste surcharges and hazardous waste fees; extend

Chairman Harper (7th) called upon Rep. Terry Rogers (10th) to speak to the bill.

Speaking for the bill was:
Sen. Burt Jones (25th)

Sen. Ginn (47th) moved **DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 44 0878S)**. Sen. Heath (31st) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with a vote of 5-0. Sen. Larry Walker III (20th) is the Senate sponsor.

HB 792 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 44 0878S)

[HB 879](#) (Rep. Jones, 167th, LC 44 0805ERS) Water resources; notice to local governing authorities prior to the dewatering of coal combustion residual surface impoundments; provide

Chairman Harper (7th) called upon Rep. Jeff Jones (167th) to speak to the bill.

Sen. Brass (28th), Secretary, arrived at 2:28 p.m.

Sen. Sims (12th) moved **DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 44 0805ERS)**. Sen. Brass (28th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with a vote of 6-0. Sen. Burt Jones (25th) is the Senate sponsor.

HB 879 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 44 0805ERS)

HB 785 (Rep. Nix, 69th, LC 44 0871ERS) Solid waste management; certain definitions; modify and enact

Chairman Harper (7th) called upon Rep. Randy Nix (69th) to speak to the bill.

Sen. Ginn (47th) moved **DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 44 0871ERS)**. Sen. Brass (28th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with a vote of 6-0. Sen. Harper (7th) is the Senate Sponsor.

HB 785 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 44 0871ERS)

Having no further business, Chairman Harper (7th) adjourned the meeting at 2:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Matt Brass (28th), Secretary

/s/ Diana Hauser, Recording Secretary

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 2018

The Senate Committee on Natural Resources and the Environment held its eighth and final meeting of the 2018 Legislative Session on Tuesday, March 20, 2018, at 2:00 p.m. in Room 310 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sen. Tyler Harper (7th), Chairman
Sen. Bill Heath (31st), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Matt Brass (28th), Secretary
Sen. Frank Ginn (47th) (Left early)
Sen. Marty Harbin (16th)
Sen. Jack Hill (4th)
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th)
Sen. John Wilkinson (50th) (Arrived late)

NOTE: Sen. Steve Henson (41st) and Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th) were absent from the meeting.

Chairman Harper (7th) called the meeting to order at 2:34 p.m.

HB 271 (Rep. Petrea, 166th, LC 44 0921ERS) Game and fish; hunting; remove a prohibition

Chairman Harper (7th) provided an overview of the substitute. Chairman Harper (7th) called upon Mr. Wes Robinson, Department of Natural Resources, to answer questions from the Committee members.

Sen. Wilkinson (50th) arrived at 2:42 p.m.

Sen. Brass (28th) proposed a **verbal amendment** regarding the dates of the open rabbit season and moved **DO AMEND THE SUBSTITUTE (LC 44 0921ERS)**. Sen. Sims (12th) seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 6-1, thereby creating a new substitute (**LC 44 0928ERS**). Sen. Brass (28th), Sen. Ginn (47th), Sen. Harbin (16th), Sen. Hill (4th), Sen. Sims (12th), and Sen. Wilkinson (50th) cast the yea votes, while Sen. Heath (31st) cast the nay vote.

Sen. Ginn (47th) left the meeting at 2:58 p.m. which was after the vote on the first amendment.

Sen. Brass (28th) proposed another **verbal amendment** to clarify language pertaining to the use of an air gun and moved **DO AMEND THE SUBSTITUTE (LC 44 0921ERS)**. Sen. Heath (31st) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with a vote of 6-0, thereby adding another change for the new substitute (**LC 44 0928ERS**).

Sen. Brass (47th) moved **DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 44 0928ERS)**. Sen. Sims (12th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with a vote of 6-0. Sen. Harper (7th) is the Senate sponsor.

HB 271 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 44 0928ERS)

Having no further business, Chairman Harper (7th) adjourned the meeting at 3:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Matt Brass (28th), Secretary

/s/ Diana Hauser, Recording Secretary