

SENATE GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

2019-2020 MEMBERS

Sen. Bill Heath, Chairman

District 31
2225 Cashtown Road
Bremen, GA 30110

Sen. Sheikh Rahman

District 5
779 Simon Way
Lawrenceville, GA 30045

Sen. Marty Harbin, Vice-Chairman

District 16
215 Greencastle Road
Tyrone, GA 30290

Sen. Randy Robertson, Ex-Officio

District 29
P.O. Box 62
Cataula, GA 31804

Sen. Elena Parent, Secretary

District 42
1250 Oakdale Road NE
Atlanta, GA 30307

Sen. Valencia Seay

District 34
P.O. Box 960008
Riverdale, GA 30274

Sen. Greg Dolezal

District 27
5255 Harris Springs Dr.
Cumming, GA 30040

Sen. Steve Gooch, Ex-Officio

District 51
P.O. Box 600
Dahlonega, GA 30533

Sen. Tyler Harper, Ex-Officio

District 7
P.O. Box 798
Ocilla, GA 31774

Sen. Jennifer Jordan

District 6
304-B Coverdell Legislative Office Building
Atlanta, GA 30334

Sen. Butch Miller, Ex-Officio

District 49
2420 Brown Bridge Road
Gainseville, GA 30504

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Government Oversight

Thursday, February 14, 2019

The Senate Committee on Government Oversight met on Thursday, February 14, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. in Room 125 of the Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Bill Heath (31st), Chairman
Sen. Marty Harbin (16th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd), Secretary
Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th)
Sen. Jennifer Jordan (6th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Butch Miller (49th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Sheikh Rahman (5th)
Sen. Randy Robertson (29th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Valencia Seay (34th)

Chairman Heath (31st) convened the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

Sen. Heath (31st) presented suggested 2019 Government Oversight Committee Rules to the Committee. Noted only change from the 2018 Rules is the change to the amount needed for a quorum and the addition to rule eleven.

The Chair recognized Sen. Butch Miller (49th) who made a motion to adopt the Committee Rules. Sen Marty Harbin (16th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. A copy of the rules is attached.

[SB 77](#) (Sen. Jeff Mullis, 53rd, LC 28 9042ER) State Flag, Seal, and other Symbols; additional protections for government statues; provide

The Chair recognized Sen. Mullis (53rd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Mullis (53rd) presented the bill to the committee.

NOTE: Sen. Jordan (6th) arrived at 1:04 p.m.

The Chair opened the floor for debate.

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public. He recognized the following:

Testimony in favor of the Bill:

Martin O' Toole of Sons of Confederate Veterans
Michael Reither of Marietta
Michael Dean of Sons of Confederate Veterans
Dan Coleman

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:
Pastor Van Shrieves of the NAACP

Committee Recommendation: SB 77 (LC 28 9042ER) No action was taken.

SB 51 (Sen. Parent, 42nd) LC 28 9089 State and Other Flags; local governments may relocate, remove, conceal, obscure, or alter certain monuments; provide

The Chair recognized Sen. Parent (42nd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Parent (42nd) presented the bill to the committee.

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public. He recognized the following:

Testimony in favor of the Bill:

Dr. Cita Cook, a retired teacher
Jeff Rader, Commissioner of DeKalb County District 2
Dr. Keri Leigh Merritt
Dr. Sara Patelaud

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:

None

Committee Recommendation: SB 51 (LC 28 9089) No action was taken.

Chairman Heath (31st) adjourned the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Elena Parent (42nd), Secretary

/s/ Abigail Conrad, Recording Secretary

SENATE GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

2019-2020 RULES

1. Quorum of the Committee shall be four (4) members.
2. The Chairman shall determine which cases or investigations shall be heard and the order in which said hearings are to commence.
3. The Committee will not hear a bill unless the Chairman receives a written request for a hearing from the author of the bill.
4. The Chairman shall have the authority to refer cases or investigations to subcommittee for study. Such subcommittees, in turn, shall have the authority to make recommendations on such cases to the full Committee.
5. The Committee shall convene, recess, put forward questions and adjourn upon order of the Chairman, subject to the Rules of the Senate.
6. Any member or members of the Committee who disagree with the majority report of the Committee shall be privileged to file a minority report.
7. At the discretion of the Chairman and subsequent to the meeting in which the rules are adopted, all amendments or substitute bills must be submitted to chairman at least 24 hours before adoption by the committee.
8. If a committee member moves on a House bill without a Senate sponsor, that committee member will be listed as the senate sponsor of the bill.
9. After adoption, these rules may be amended upon motion duly made, seconded, and subsequently approved by a two-thirds vote of the members of the Committee.
10. The Secretary of the Committee shall distribute a copy of these rules to all members of the Senate Government Oversight Committee.
11. Anyone who wishes to record the proceedings of a meeting shall make the request of the Chairman who will assign a location within the meeting room for the setup and operation of the recording equipment if space allows.
12. Where these rules are silent on a specific issue, the Rules of the Senate, as adopted, shall govern.

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Government Oversight

Thursday, February 28, 2019

The Senate Committee on Government Oversight met on Thursday, February 28, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. in Room 125 of the Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Bill Heath (31st), Chairman
Sen. Marty Harbin (16th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd), Secretary
Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th)
Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Ex-Officio
Sen. Tyler Harper (7th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Jennifer Jordan (6th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Butch Miller (49th), Ex- Officio (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Sheikh Rahman (5th)
Sen. Randy Robertson (29th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Valencia Seay (34th)

NOTE: Sen. Tyler Harper (7th) and Sen. Steve Gooch (51st) were appointed to the Senate Committee on Government Oversight, as permanent Ex- Officio members, by the Committee on Assignments. A copy of the letters of appointment is attached.

Chairman Heath (31st) convened the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

SB 77 (Sen. Jeff Mullis, 53rd, LC 28 9042ER) State Flag, Seal, and other Symbols; additional protections for government statues; provide

The Chair recognized Sen. Mullis (53rd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Mullis (53rd) presented the bill and a proposed substitute to the committee.

The Chair recognized Sen. Harbin (16th) who made a motion that **SB 77 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 28 9176ERS)**. Sen. Robertson (29th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 5-3.

Sen. Gooch (51st), Sen. Dolezal (27th), Sen. Robertson (29th), Sen. Harper (7th), and Sen. Harbin (16th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Parent (42nd), Sen. Seay (34th), and Sen. Rahman (5th) voted against the motion.

Committee Recommendation: SB 77 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 28 9176ERS)

SR 214 (Sen. Heath, 31st, LC 117 0855) State Agencies and Departments; publish their reports to the General Assembly by electronic means; urge

The Chair presented the resolution to the committee.

NOTE: Sen. Miller (49th) and Sen. Jordan (6th) arrived at 1:03 p.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Miller (49th) who made a motion that **SR 214 Do Pass**. Sen. Dolezal (27th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SR 214 DO PASS (LC 117 0855)

SB 81 (Sen. Seay, 34th, LC 28 9143) General Assembly Members; compensation and method by which such compensation is calculated; change

The Chair stated that SB 81 would receive a hearing only.

The Chair recognized Sen. Seay (34th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Seay (34th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for debate.

The Chair stated that bill would be kept in que with no movement today but recognized Sen. Parent (42nd) for a question.

Committee Recommendation: SB 81 (LC 28 9143) No action was taken.

SB 172 (Sen. Wilkinson, 50th, LC 36 3828ER) Buildings and Housing and Local Government; local governments from adopting or enforcing ordinances; building design elements; prohibit

The Chair stated that Sen. Wilkinson (50th) would not be speaking on the bill but those who signed up would speak on its behalf.

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public. He recognized the following:

Testimony in favor of the Bill:

Austin Hackney, Home Builders Association of Georgia

Brad Mock, Georgia Association of Realtors

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:

Johnny D. Crist, Mayor of Lilburn, Georgia

Cindy Mill, Member of Forsyth County Board of Commissioners

Tom Gehl, Georgia Municipal Association
Todd Edwards, Association of County Commissioners of Georgia
John Daniel, citizen of Oconee County
Boyd Austin, Mayor of Dallas, Georgia

Committee Recommendation: SB 172 (LC 36 3828ER) No action was taken.

Chairman Heath (31st) adjourned the meeting at 1:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Elena Parent (42nd), Secretary

/s/ Abigail Conrad, Recording Secretary



OFFICE OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

240 STATE CAPITOL
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334

GEOFF DUNCAN
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

February 28, 2019

The Honorable Steve Gooch
421-F State Capitol
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Dear Senator Gooch,

In agreement with the Committee on Assignments, I hereby appoint you to the following committee:

1. Government Oversight, Ex-Officio

Congratulations on your committee assignment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Geoff Duncan", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Geoff Duncan
Lieutenant Governor of Georgia

cc: Secretary of the Senate
Legislative Fiscal Office
Chairman Bill Heath



OFFICE OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

240 STATE CAPITOL
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334

GEOFF DUNCAN
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

February 28, 2019

The Honorable Tyler Harper
301-B CLOB
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Dear Senator Harper,

In agreement with the Committee on Assignments, I hereby appoint you to the following committee:

1. Government Oversight, Ex-Officio

Congratulations on your committee assignment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Geoff Duncan".

Geoff Duncan
Lieutenant Governor of Georgia

cc: Secretary of the Senate
Legislative Fiscal Office
Chairman Bill Heath

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Government Oversight

Thursday, March 14, 2019

The Senate Committee on Government Oversight met on Thursday, March 14, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. in Room 125 of the Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Bill Heath (31st), Chairman
Sen. Marty Harbin (16th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd), Secretary (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th)
Sen. Sheikh Rahman (5th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Randy Robertson (29th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Valencia Seay (34th) (*Arrived Late*)

NOTE: Sen. Jennifer Jordan (6th), Sen. Butch Miller (49th), Sen. Tyler Harper (7th), and Sen. Steve Gooch (51st) were absent.

Chairman Heath (31st) convened the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

[HB 456](#) (Rep. Jan Tankersley, 160th) LC 36 3857 Local government; elect an annual report in lieu of a biennial audit; increase expenditure amount

The Chair recognized Rep. Tankersley (160th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Tankersley (160th) presented the bill to the committee.

NOTE: Sen. Rahman (5th) arrived at 1:06 p.m. Sen. Seay (34th) arrived at 1:07 p.m.

The Chair opened the floor for debate.

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public. He recognized the following:

Testimony in favor of the Bill:

Joel Wiggins, Georgia Municipal Association

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:

None

The Chair recognized Sen. Harbin (16th) who made a motion that **HB 456 Do Pass**. Motion failed, due to a lack of a second.

NOTE: Sen. Parent (42nd) arrived at 1:10 p.m.

Committee Recommendation: HB 456 (LC 36 3857) No action was taken.

[HB 392](#) (Rep. Marcus Wiedower, 119th, LC 41 1823) Board of Public Safety; expense allowance and travel cost reimbursement for members in like fashion as other state boards and commissions; provide

The Chair recognized Rep. Wiedower (119th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Wiedower (119th) presented the bill to the committee.

The Chair opened the floor for debate.

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public. He recognized the following:

Testimony in favor of the Bill:

Jason Johnson, Lt. Col. of the Georgia State Patrol

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:

None

The Chair recognized Sen. Robertson (29th) who made a motion that **HB 456 Do Pass (LC 41 1823)**. Sen. Seay (34th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: HB 392 DO PASS (LC 41 1823)

[HB 315](#) (Rep. Mark Newton, 123rd, LC 47 0146S) Local government; certain agreements from consultants who enter into contracts or arrangements to prepare or develop requirements for bids; provide

The Chair recognized Rep. Newton (123rd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Newton (123rd) presented the bill to the committee.

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public. He recognized the following:

Testimony in favor of the Bill:

Neil Herring, Sierra Club

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:

None

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

Committee Recommendation: HB 315 (LC 47 0146S) No action was taken.

[HB 379](#) (Rep. Beth Moore, 95th, LC 43 1228 ER) Revenue and taxation; projects and purposes using SPLOST funds; revise annual reporting requirements

The Chair recognized Rep. Moore (95th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Moore (95th) presented the bill to the committee.

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public. He recognized the following:

Testimony in favor of the Bill:

Joel Wiggins, Georgia Municipal Association

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:

None

The Chair recognized Sen. Parent (42nd) who made a motion that **HB 379 Do Pass (LC 43 1228ER)**. Sen. Seay (34th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: HB 379 DO PASS (LC 43 1228ER)

HB 315 (Rep. Newton, 123rd, LC 47 0146S) Local government; certain agreements from consultants who enter into contracts or arrangements to prepare or develop requirements for bids; provide

The Chair recognized Sen. Harbin (16th) who made a motion to strike lines 58-65 of the bill. Sen. Parent (42nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair recognized Sen. Harbin (16th) who made a motion that **HB 315 Do Pass by Committee Substitute (LC 47 0168S)**. Sen. Dolezal (27th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: HB 315 DO PASS BY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE (LC 47 0168S)

HB 456 (Rep. Tankersley, 160th, LC 36 3857) Local government; elect an annual report in lieu of a biennial audit; increase expenditure amount

The Chair opened the floor for debate.

The Chair recognized Sen. Robertson (29th) who made a motion that **HB 456 Do Pass (LC 36 3857)**. Sen. Seay (34th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: HB 456 DO PASS (LC 36 3857)

Chairman Heath (31st) adjourned the meeting at 1: 47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Elena Parent (42nd), Secretary

/s/ Abigail Conrad, Recording Secretary