

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE
ENVIRONMENT
MEMBERS 2019-2020**

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**SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE
ENVIRONMENT
RULES 2019-2020 SESSION**

1. A quorum of the Committee shall be Six (6) members.
2. The Committee shall convene, recess and adjourn upon the order of the Chairman.
3. The Chairman shall have the authority to determine which bills and resolutions are to be considered and the order in which said measures are considered; the Chairman shall have the authority to call a bill, resolution, substitute, or amendment for debate and explanation only.
4. The Chairman shall have the authority to refer bills and resolutions to Subcommittees for study. Such Subcommittees in turn shall have the authority to make recommendations on such measures to the full Committee at such time as shall be designated by the Chairman.
5. A bill, resolution, or other matter will be considered only after the presentation by its principal author or a legislator whom he or she designates to do so. The principal author shall be the legislator whose name appears first on the list of authors.
6. The Chairman reserves the right to delay action on substitutes and amendments not provided to the Chairman at least 24 hours prior to the hearing.
7. Any member or members of the Committee who disagree(s) with the majority report of the Committee shall be privileged to file a minority report in writing, setting forth concise reasons for their dissent.
8. Any individual wishing to video a meeting may ONLY set up video equipment in an approved location by the Chairman and only in so much as it does not disrupt or distract from the meeting.
9. These Rules may be amended upon a motion duly made and subsequently approved by two-thirds of the members of the Committee, in a meeting called by the Chairman, provided that written notice has been given to the Committee 48 hours prior to the Committee meeting.
10. The Rules of the Senate shall govern on all matters not addressed by these Committee Rules.

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES AND
THE ENVIRONMENT**

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2019

The Senate Committee on Natural Resources and the Environment met on Tuesday, Feb. 5, 2019 at 3:00 p.m. in Room 310 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Tyler Harper (7th), Chairman
Sen. Bill Heath (31st), Vice-Chairman (*Left Early*)
Sen. Matt Brass (28th), Secretary (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Gail Davenport, (44th)
Sen. Frank Ginn (47th), Ex-Officio (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Marty Harbin, (16th)
Sen. Sally Harrell, (40th)
Sen. Jack Hill, (4th)
Sen. Zahra Karinshak, (48th)
Sen. Freddie Powell-Sims, (12th)
Sen. John Wilkinson, (50th) (*Arrived Late*) (*Left Early*)

NOTE: Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th) was absent.

Chairman Tyler Harper (7th) called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.m.

Chairman Tyler Harper called upon Sen. Harbin (16th) who led the meeting with prayer.

NOTE: Sen. Matt Brass (28th) and Sen. John Wilkinson (50th) arrived at 3:08 p.m.

Chairman Harper made a motion for the rules of the Committee be adopted.

Rules were adopted by the Committee

Georgia Forestry Commission Director Chuck Williams presented to the Committee

NOTE: Sen. Ginn (47th) arrived at 3:14 p.m.

Jeff Fields, Chief of Reforestation, presented to the Committee

Mark Williams, DNR, presented to the Committee

NOTE: Sen. John Wilkinson (50th) left the meeting at 3:40 p.m. Sen. Bill Heath (31st) left the meeting at 3:56 p.m.

Having no further business, Chairman Harper (7th) adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Evelyn Thomas, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES AND
THE ENVIRONMENT**

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2019

The Senate Committee on Natural Resources and the Environment met on Tuesday, Feb. 12, 2019 at 3:00 p.m. in Room 310 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Tyler Harper (7th), Chairman
Sen. Bill Heath (31st), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Matt Brass (28th), Secretary (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Gail Davenport (44th)
Sen. Frank Ginn (47th), Ex-Officio (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Marty Harbin (16th)
Sen. Sally Harrell (40th)
Sen. Jack Hill (4th) (*Left Early*)
Sen. Zahra Karinshak (48th)
Sen. Freddie Powell-Sims (12th)
Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. John Wilkinson (50th) (*Left Early*)

Chairman Harper (7th) called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

Chairman Harper (7th) called on Sen. Hill (4th) to lead the meeting in prayer.

NOTE: Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th) arrived at 3:12 p.m. Sen. Frank Ginn (47th) arrived at 3:14 p.m. Sen. Bill Heath (31st) left briefly at 3:16 p.m. and returned at 3:18 p.m. Sen. Matt Brass (28th) arrived at 3:37 p.m.

The Chair recognized Kevin Clark, Executive Director of GEFA for the purpose of making a presentation.

The Chair opened up the floor for questions from Sen. Harbin (16th), Sen. Ginn (47th) and Sen. Wilkinson (50th).

[SB 72](#) (Sen. Harper, 7th, LC 45 0208) “Game and Fish; hunting on wildlife management areas; prohibition; remove”

Chairman Harper (7th) presented the bill and called upon members for questions.

NOTE: Sen. Hill (4th) left early at 3:10 p.m. Sen. Wilkinson (50th) left early at 3:30 p.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Ginn (47th) who made a motion that **SB 72 Do Pass (LC 45 0208)**. Sen. Sims (12th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 8-1.

Sen. Heath (31st), Sen. Ginn (47th), Sen. Davenport (44th), Sen. Harbin (16th), Sen. Harrell (40th), Sen. Sims (12th), Sen. Tippins (37th) and Sen. Wilkinson (50th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Karinshak (48th) voted against the motion.

Committee Recommendation: SB 72 DO PASS (LC 45 0208)

Having no further business, Chairman Harper (7th) adjourned the meeting at 3:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Evelyn Thomas, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES AND
THE ENVIRONMENT**

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2019

The Senate Committee on Natural Resources and the Environment met on Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2019 at 3:00 p.m. in Room 310 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Tyler Harper (7th), Chairman
Sen. Bill Heath (31st), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Gail Davenport, (44th)
Sen. Marty Harbin, (16th)
Sen. Sally Harrell, (40th)
Sen. Zahra Karinshak, (48th)
Sen. Freddie Powell-Sims, (12th)
Sen. John Wilkinson, (50th)

NOTE: Sen. Matt Brass (28th), Secretary, Sen. Frank Ginn (47th), Ex-Officio, Sen. Jack Hill (4th), and Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th) were absent.

Chairman Harper (7th) called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

Chair called on Sen. Zahra Karinshak (48th) who led the meeting in prayer.

SB 99 (Sen. Harper, 7th, LC 45 0198) “Department of Natural Resources' Online Licensing System; allow applicants to make an anatomical gift; provide”

Chairman Harper (7th) introduced the bill.

The Chair recognized Sen. Karinshak (48th) who made a motion that **SB 99 Do Pass (LC 45 0198)**. Sen. Sims (12th) seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0.

Committee Recommendation: SB 99 DO PASS (LC 45 0198)

Having no further business, Chairman Harper (7th) adjourned the meeting at 3:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Evelyn Thomas, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES AND
THE ENVIRONMENT**

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2019

The Senate Committee on Natural Resources and the Environment met on Tuesday, Feb. 26, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. in Room 310 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Tyler Harper (7th), Chairman
Sen. Bill Heath (31st), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Matt Brass (28th), Secretary
Sen. Gail Davenport, (44th) (*Left Early*)
Sen. Frank Ginn (47th), Ex-Officio (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Marty Harbin, (16th)
Sen. Sally Harrell, (40th)
Sen. Jack Hill, (4th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Zahra Karinshak, (48th)
Sen. John Wilkinson, (50th) (*Left Early*)

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

Chairman Harper (7th) called the meeting to order at 4:09 p.m.

The Chair called on Sen. Wilkinson (50th) who led the meeting in prayer.

NOTE: Sen. Ginn (47th) arrived at 4:20 p.m. Sen. Hill (4th) arrived at 4:29 p.m.

[SB 182](#) (Sen. Ligon, Jr., 3rd, LC 45 0253ERS) “Seafood; mariculture development; legislative findings; definitions; unlawful acts; permitting; provide”

Chairman Harper (7th) recognized Wes Robinson and Doug Hamen of the Department of Natural Resources, who introduced the bill.

The Chair recognized Sen. Karinshak (48th) who then raised questions about the guarantee of harvesting oysters and the leasing procedures.

Chairman Harper (7th) opened the floor for comments.

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:

Megan Desrosiers, CEO, One Hundred Miles

Jen Hilburn, Altamaha Riverkeepers

Chairman Harper (7th) stated the Department of Natural Resources can open a closed season so it is possible to have a 12-month open season.

The Chair recognized Sen. Heath (31st) who inquired whether the Department of Agriculture supported this bill.

NOTE: Sen. Wilkinson (50th) left the meeting at 4:46 p.m.

The Chair recognized the following to speak to the bill.

Testimony in support of the Bill:

Bo Warren, Department of Agriculture

Doug Hamen, Department of Natural Resources

The Chair recognized Sen. Ginn (47th) who made a motion that **SB 182 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 45 0253ERS)**. Sen. Hill (4th) seconded the motion.

Chairman Harper (7th) called for a vote. The bill passed by a vote of 4-3.

Sen. Ginn (47th), Sen. Hill (4th), Sen. Heath (31st) and Sen. Harbin (16th) voted in favor of the bill.

Sen. Karinshak (48th), Sen. Harrell (40th) and Sen. Davenport (44th) voted against the bill.

NOTE: Sen. Davenport (44th) left at 4:55 p.m. after the vote

Committee Recommendation: SB 182 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 45 0253ERS).

Having no further business Chairman Harper (7th) adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Evelyn Thomas, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES AND
THE ENVIRONMENT**

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2019

The Senate Committee on Natural Resources and the Environment met on Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2019 at 3:00 p.m. in Room 310 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Tyler Harper (7th), Chairman
Sen. Bill Heath (31st), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Matt Brass (28th), Secretary
Sen. Gail Davenport, (44th) (*Left Early*)
Sen. Frank Ginn (47th), Ex-Officio (*Left Early*)
Sen. Sally Harrell, (40th)
Sen. Zahra Karinshak, (48th)
Sen. Freddie Powell-Sims, (12th) (*Arrived Late*) (*Left Early*)

NOTE: Sen. Marty Harbin (16th), Sen. Jack Hill (4th), Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th), and Sen. John Wilkinson (50th) were absent.

Chairman Harper (7th) called the meeting to order at 3:09 p.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Matt Brass (28th) who led the meeting in prayer.

SB 123 (Sen. Ligon, Jr., 3rd, LC 45 0204) “Waste Management; the coal ash surcharge imposed by host local governments; eliminate”

The Chair recognized Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd) for the purpose of presenting his bill, which was **Hearing Only**.

NOTE: Sen. Sims (12th) arrived at 3:17 p.m.

The Chair opened up the floor for questions, comments and debate.

Sen. Karinshak (48th) questioned if out of state dumpers of coalash could be charged more, answer (no) violates interstate commerce laws

Questions were asked, or comments made, by Sen. Matt Brass (28th), Sen. Bill Heath (31st), Sen. Frank Ginn (47th) and Sen. Zahra Karinshak (48th).

The Chair recognized the following.

Testimony in favor of the Bill:

Kathleen Bowen, ACCG

April Lipscomb, Southern Environmental Law Center

Aaron Mitchell, Georgia Power

Neil Herring, Sierra Club

NOTE: Sen. Ginn (47th) left at 3:38 p.m. Sen. Davenport (44th) left at 3:46 p.m. Sen. Sims (12th) left at 3:44 p.m.

Having no further business, Chairman Harper (7th) adjourned the meeting at 3:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Evelyn Thomas, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES AND
THE ENVIRONMENT**

TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2019

The Senate Committee on Natural Resources and the Environment met on Tuesday, March 12, 2019 at 3:00 p.m. in Room 310 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Tyler Harper (7th), Chairman
Sen. Bill Heath (31st), Vice-Chairman (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Matt Brass (28th), Secretary (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Gail Davenport (44th)
Sen. Frank Ginn (47th), Ex-Officio (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Marty Harbin (16th)
Sen. Sally Harrell (40th)
Sen. Jack Hill (4th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Zahra Karinshak (48th)
Sen. Freddie Powell-Sims (12th)
Sen. John Wilkinson (50th)

NOTE: Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th) was absent.

Chairman Harper (7th) called the meeting to order at 3:08 p.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Marty Harbin (16th) who led the meeting in prayer.

Sen. Bill Heath (31st), Vice-Chairman, arrived at 3:10 p.m. Sen. Matt Brass (28th), Secretary, arrived at 3:09 p.m. Sen. Frank Ginn (47th) arrived at 3:10 p.m. Sen. Jack Hill (4th) arrived at 3:25 p.m.

[HB 382](#) (Rep. Burns, 159th, LC 45 0288ERS) “Outdoor stewardship; eligible applicants for and recipients of grants; redefine”

The Chair recognized Rep. Jon Burns (159th) for the purpose of presenting the bill.

The Chair recognized the following senators:

Sen. Karinshak (48th) asked a question regarding the cost of the stewardship program and noted some ambiguity in the bill relative to the cost.

Sen. Heath (31st) inquired as to how the funds are amassed for the program and disagreed with the appropriations of funds from the taxes on outdoor equipment sales.

The Chair recognized Sen. Sims (12th) who made a motion that **HB 382 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 45 0288ERS)**.

Sen. Brass (28th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Committee Recommendation: HB 382 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 45 0288ERS)

HB 223 (Rep. Robert Dickey, 140th, LC 45 0251ERS) “Conservation and natural resources; provide for an exception to notification of spills or releases; provide for definitions”

The Chair recognized Rep. Dickey (140th) for the purpose of presenting **HB 223 (LC 45 0251ERS)**.

The Chair recognized the following senators for questions and comments.

Sen. Ginn (47th) inquired regarding a clarification of rules.

Regarding line 24, Sen. Harbin (16th) recommended an amendment to train and board livestock.

Chairman Harper (7th) asked whether horses would be included in the animals recommended to be boarded.

The Chair recognized Sen. Ginn (47th) who made a motion that **HB 223 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 45 0251ERS)**.

Sen. Heath (31st) seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Committee Recommendation: HB 223 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 45 0251ERS)

HB 501 (Rep. Petrea, 166th, LC 45 0255ER) “Game and fish; provide for mariculture development”

Chairman Harper (7th) presented **HB 501** (previously taken up as SB182 and passed out of this committee). Chairman Harper called for a vote on the bill immediately. The Chair recognized Sen. Ginn (47th) who made a motion that **HB 501 Do Pass**. Sen. Heath (31st) seconded the motion. Chairman Harper (7th) called for a vote on the bill. **HB 501** passed by unanimous vote. However, opposition was presented by Rep. Jeff Jones (167th). Chairman Harper (7th) opened up the floor for testimony from opponents of the bill.

Rep. Jessie Petrea (166th) spoke in favor of the bill and outlined how it would be of benefit to the area and the state.

Chairman Harper (7th) allowed testimony as follows:

Testimony in favor of the Bill:

Les Schneider -- Wimberly, Lawson, Steckel, Schneider & Stine, P.C.

Cosby Johnson -- Georgia Chamber of Commerce

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:

Sen. Jeff Jones (167th)

Joe Zawacki, Farmer

Jen Hilburn, Altamaha River-keeper

Chairman Harper (7th) called for a final vote. The bill passed by a vote of 8-2.

Sen. Heath (31st), Sen. Brass (28th), Sen. Ginn (47th), Sen. Davenport (44th), Sen. Harbin (16th), Sen. Hill (4th), Sen. Sims (12th) and Sen. Wilkinson (50th) voted in favor of the bill.

Sen. Karinshak (48th) and Sen. Harrell (40th) voted against the bill.

Committee Recommendation: HB 501 DO PASS (LC 45 0255ER)

Having no further business, Chairman Harper (7th) adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Evelyn Thomas, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES AND
THE ENVIRONMENT**

TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 2019

The Senate Committee on Natural Resources and the Environment met on Tuesday, March 19, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. in Room 310 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Tyler Harper (7th), Chairman
Sen. Bill Heath (31st), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Matt Brass (28th), Secretary
Sen. Gail Davenport (44th)
Sen. Frank Ginn (47th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Marty Harbin (16th) (*Left Early*)
Sen. Sally Harrell (40th)
Sen. Jack Hill (4th)
Sen. Zahra Karinshak (48th)
Sen. Freddie Powell-Sims (12th) (*Left Early*)
Sen. John Wilkinson (50th)

NOTE: Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th) was absent.

Chairman Harper (7th) called the meeting to order at 9:11 a.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Wilkinson (50th) who led the meeting in prayer.

SR 369 (Sen. Heath, 31st, LC 117 1052) “Department of Natural Resources; recognize September 28, 2019 as National Hunting and Fishing Day in the state of Georgia; urge”

The Chair recognized Sen. Heath (31st) for the purpose of presenting **SR 369**. Sen. Heath presented the bill.

The Chair recognized Sen. Sims (12th) who made a motion that **SR 369 Do Pass (LC 117 1052)**. Sen. Harrell (40th) seconded the motion. The bill passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SR 369 DO PASS (LC 117 1052)

HB 458 (Rep. Gullett, 19th, LC 45 0296ERS) “Fire protection and safety; use of class B fire-fighting foam for testing purposes if such foam contains a certain class of fluorinated organic chemicals; prohibit”

The Chair recognized Rep. Joseph Gullett (19th) for the purpose of presenting **HB 458 (LC 45 0296ERS)**. Rep. Gullett (19th) presented the bill.

The Chair recognized the following senators and took questions: Sen. Frank Ginn (47th) and Sen. Zahra Karinshak (48th).

The Chair recognized Sen. Ginn (47th) who made a motion that **HB 458 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 45 0296ERS)**.

Sen. Sims (12th) and Sen. Karinshak (48th) seconded the motion. The bill passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: HB 458 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 45 0296ERS).

NOTE: Sen. Heath (31st) stepped out at 9:49 a.m. and returned at 9:52 a.m.

HB 201 (Rep. Hogan, 179th, LC 45 0254ERS) “Board of Natural Resources; promulgate rules and regulations regarding anchoring certain vessels within estuarine areas; authorize”

The Chair recognized Rep. Don Hogan (179th) for the purpose of presenting **HB 201 (LC 45 0254ERS)**. Rep. Hogan (179th) presented the bill.

The Chair recognized the following senators and took their questions: Sen. Harbin (16th), Sen. Brass (28th), Sen. Karinshak (48th) and Sen. Ginn (47th).

The Chair recognized Sen. Brass (28th) who made a motion that **HB 201 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 45 0254ERS)**. Sen. Heath (31st) seconded the motion. The bill passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: HB 201 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 45 0254ERS).

HB 445 (Rep. Hogan, 179th, LC 45 0299ERS) “Conservation and natural resources; shore protection; revise various provisions”

The Chair recognized Rep. Don Hogan (179th) to speak to **HB 445 (LC 45 0299ERS)**.

NOTE: Sen. Freddie Powell-Sims (12th) left at 10:15 a.m.

The Chair recognized the following senators and took their questions: Sen. Harbin (16th), Sen. Davenport (44th), Sen. Karinshak (48th), Sen. Brass (28th) and Sen. Harrell (40th).

The Chair opened up the floor for comments.

Testimony in favor of the Bill:

Wes Robinson, Department of Natural Resources

Jeff Ledford, Georgia Realtors

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:

Alex Muir, One Hundred Miles Org

Neil Herring, Sierra Club

Carolyn Radar, Center for a Sustainable Coast

Chairman Harper (7th) explained confusing points of the bill and introduced two amendments.

The Chair recognized Sen. Ginn (47th) who made a motion **Do Pass** on the amendments. Sen. Heath (31st) seconded the motion.

The Chair announced that the amendments would be prepared as a substitute and that a motion to recommend that the bill “do pass by substitute” was in order.

The Chair called for a vote on the motion **HB 445 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 45 0299ERS)**. The vote was 4-3 in favor.

Sen. Harbin (16th), Sen. Ginn (47th), Sen. Heath (31st), Sen. Brass (28th) voted in favor of the bill.

Sen. Karinshak (48th), Sen. Harrell (40th) and Sen. Davenport (44th) voted in opposition to the bill.

NOTE: Sen. Marty Harbin (16th) left at 10:25 a.m. after the vote

Committee Recommendation: HB 445 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 45 0299ERS)

Having no further business, Chairman Harper (7th) adjourned the meeting at 10:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Evelyn Thomas, Recording Secretary