

**THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY  
2019 ROSTER**

**Sen. Jesse Stone, Chairman**

**District 23**

827 N. Liberty Street  
Waynesboro, GA 30830

**Sen. Bill Cowsert, Vice Chairman**

**District 46**

P.O. Box 512  
Athens, GA 30603

**Sen. Blake Tillery, Secretary**

**District 19**

404 Durden Street  
Vidalia, GA 30474

**Sen. Bill Heath**

**District 31**

2225 Cashtown Road  
Bremen, GA 30110

**Sen. Harold Jones, II**

**District 22**

437 Walker Street  
Augusta, GA 30901

**Sen. John Kennedy**

**District 18**

231 Riverside Drive  
Macon, GA 31201

**Sen. William Ligon, Jr.**

**District 3**

158 Scranton Connector  
Brunswick, GA 31525

**Sen. Elena Parent**

**District 42**

1250 Oakdale Road NE  
Atlanta, GA 30307

**Sen. Michael “Doc” Rhett**

**District 33**

P.O. Box 777  
Marietta, GA 30061

**Sen. Brian Strickland**

**District 17**

P.O. Box 1895  
McDonough, GA 30253

**THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**  
**2019-2020 COMMITTEE RULES**

1. Quorum of the Committee shall be six (6) members. Every member, including ex-officio members, shall count as a voting member for purposes of establishing a quorum at any given meeting.
2. The Chairman shall determine which bills, resolutions, substitutes, or amendments are to be considered and the order in which said measures are considered; the Chairman shall have the authority and discretion to call a bill, resolution, substitute or amendment for debate and explanation only or to limit consideration of such measures.
3. Each author, or his or her designee, requesting a Committee hearing and/or vote on a bill shall make such request in writing no later than forty-eight (48) hours prior to the scheduled meeting of the Committee, except at the discretion of the Chairman.
4. The Chairman shall have the authority to refer bills and resolutions to Subcommittee for study. Such Subcommittees in turn shall have the authority to make recommendation on such measures to the full Committee at such times as shall be designated by the Chairman. All actions of the Subcommittees shall be approved or disapproved by the standing Committee.
5. The Chairman shall have the authority to schedule, manage, and regulate the debate on bills, resolutions, substitutes, and amendments, and may in his discretion recognize motions related to such measures and the order in which they are recognized.
6. When a bill or resolution is before the Committee for consideration, and multiple, concurrent motions are made, the following shall be the precedence of the motions:
  1. A motion that a bill do pass;
  2. A motion that a bill do not pass;
  3. A motion to postpone to a time certain;
  4. A motion to refer a bill to a subcommittee(All motions listed above shall receive a second before consideration.)
7. The Committee shall convene, recess, and adjourn upon the order of the Chairman.
8. A bill or resolution will be considered only after presentation by its principal author or other legislator whom he/she may designate unless otherwise directed by the Chairman. The principal author shall be the legislator whose name appears first on the list of authors. The Committee shall not vote on any bill until the author or his or her designee has been given the opportunity to appear and be heard.
9. The Chairman reserves the right to delay or decline action on substitutes and amendments not provided to the Chairman in writing at least 24 hours prior to the hearing in which they are presented.
10. The Chairman shall not vote unless the Committee shall be equally divided or unless his or her vote if given in the minority will make the division equal. In case the vote is equally divided, the Chairman must vote.
11. Any member or members of the Committee who disagree with the majority report of the

Committee shall be privileged to file a minority report if they so desire.

12. These rules may be amended upon a motion duly made and subsequently approved by two-thirds of the members of the Committee.
13. Where these rules are silent on a specific issue, the Rules of the Senate as adopted shall govern. If the Rules of the Senate are silent on a specific issue, Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure shall govern.

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**  
**Monday, January 28, 2019**

The Senate Committee on Judiciary held its organizational meeting of the 2019 Legislative Session on Monday, January 28, 2019, at 4:00 p.m. in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building. The following members were in attendance:

Sen. Jesse Stone (23rd), Chairman  
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Blake Tillery (19th), Secretary  
Sen. Bill Heath (31st)  
Sen. Harold V. Jones II (22nd)  
Sen. John Kennedy (18th)  
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd)  
Sen. Michael Rhett (33rd)  
Sen. Brian Strickland (17th) (Arrived Late)

**NOTE:** Sen. Ligon (3rd) was absent.

Chairman Stone (23rd) called the meeting to order at 4:03pm.

**NOTE:** Sen. Strickland (17th) arrived at 4:05pm.

Chairman Stone (23rd) introduced the committee rules for the 2019-2020 Legislative Session.

Sen. Tillery (19th) motioned to adopt the rules for the 2019-2020 Legislative Session. Sen. Parent (42nd) seconded the motion. The motioned passed unanimously.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:08pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Sen. Blake Tillery (19th), Secretary

/s/ Janelle Bova, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**  
**Thursday, February 7, 2019**

The Senate Committee on Judiciary held its first meeting of the 2019 Legislative Session on Thursday, February 7, 2019, at 4:00 p.m. in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building. The following members were in attendance:

Sen. Jesse Stone (23rd), Chairman  
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Vice-Chairman (Arrived late)  
Sen. Blake Tillery (19th), Secretary  
Sen. Bill Heath (31st)  
Sen. Harold V. Jones II (22nd)  
Sen. John Kennedy (18th) (Arrived late)  
Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd)  
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd)  
Sen. Michael Rhett (33rd)  
Sen. Brian Strickland (17th)

Chairman Stone (23rd) called the meeting to order at 4:09 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Cowsert (46th) arrived at 4:11 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Kennedy (18th) arrived at 4:13 p.m.

**SB 1 (Sen. Parent, 42nd, LC 44 0971) CJ's Law; penalty for hit and run accidents that result in serious injury; 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:*

Mr. Jason Samuels of the Prosecuting Attorneys' Council  
Mr. Marcus Coleman, a private citizen

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Parent (42nd) who made a motion to strike the phrase "proximately" on line 35 and insert in its place the phrase "The person knew or should have known." Sen. Jones

(22nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair recognized Sen. Rhett (33rd) who made a motion that **SB 1 Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Jones (22nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Recommendation: SB 1 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 41 1779S)**

**SB 10** (Sen. Jones, 22nd, LC 41 1655) **Controlled Substances; possession of certain quantities of marijuana constitute a misdemeanor; provide**

The Chair recognized Sen. Jones (22nd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Jones (22nd) 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:*

Mr. Stanley, a private citizen

Mr. Oliver Prosper, a private citizen

Mr. Gerald Grigg, a private citizen

Mr. Chris Grigg, an attorney

Mr. Chris Bruce of the American Civil Liberties Union

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

Sen. Strickland (17th) made a motion to table SB 10. Sen. Ligon (3rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Recommendation: SB 10 (LC 41 1655) TABLED**

**SB 38** (Ligon, 3rd, LC 41 1697) **Courts; electronic filing requirements of superior and state courts; certain types of filings; exclude**

The Chair recognized Sen. Ligon (3rd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen Ligon (3rd) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Cowser (46th) who made a motion to amend SB 38 relating to municipal corporations. Sen. Strickland (17th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair recognized Sen. Strickland (17th) who made a motion to strike lines 35-37. Sen. Tillery (19th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair recognized Sen. Strickland (17th) who made a motion to strike lines 105-107. Sen. Tillery (19th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair recognized Sen. Cowsert (46th) who made a motion that **SB 38 Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Strickland (17th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Recommendation: SB 38 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 41 1778S)**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:36 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Sen. Blake Tillery (19th), Secretary

/s/ Janelle Bova, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**  
**Monday, February 11, 2019**

The Senate Committee on Judiciary held its second meeting of the 2019 Legislative Session on Monday, February 11, 2019, at 4:00 p.m. in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building. The following members were in attendance:

Sen. Jesse Stone (23rd), Chairman  
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Vice-Chairman (Arrived Late)  
Sen. Blake Tillery (19th), Secretary (Arrived Late)  
Sen. Bill Heath (31st)  
Sen. Harold V. Jones II (22nd)  
Sen. John Kennedy (18th)  
Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd)  
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd)  
Sen. Michael Rhett (33rd)  
Sen. Brian Strickland (17th)

Chairman Stone (23rd) called the meeting to order at 4:07 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Cowsert (46th) arrived at 4:09 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Tillery (19th) arrived at 4:11 p.m.

**[SB 52](#) (Sen. Ligon, 3rd, LC 33 7539) Code Revision Commission; statutory portion of said Code; revise, modernize, correct errors or omissions in and reenact**

The Chair recognized Sen. Ligon (3rd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen Ligon (3rd) 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:*

Ms. Betsy Hightower, Legislative Counsel

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Strickland (17th) who made a motion that **SB 52 Do Pass (LC 33 7539)**. Sen. Kennedy (18th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Recommendation: SB 52 DO PASS (LC 33 7539)**

**HB 28** (Rep. Mathiak, 73rd, LC 28 8998) Griffin Judicial Circuit; additional judge of the superior court; provide

The Chair recognized Rep. Mathiak (73rd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Mathiak (73rd) 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:*

Chris Edwards, Chief Judge of the Griffin Judicial Circuit  
Christopher Hansen, Administrative Office of the Courts

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Strickland (17th) who made a motion that **HB 28 Do Pass (28 8998)**. Sen. Tillery (19th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 28 DO PASS (LC 28 8998)**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:28 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Sen. Blake Tillery (19th), Secretary

/s/ Janelle Bova, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**  
**Thursday, February 14, 2019**

The Senate Committee on Judiciary held its third meeting of the 2019 Legislative Session on Thursday, February 14, 2019, at 4:00 p.m. in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building. The following members were in attendance:

Sen. Jesse Stone (23rd), Chairman  
Sen. Bill Heath (31st)  
Sen. Harold V. Jones II (22nd)  
Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd)  
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd)  
Sen. Michael Rhett (33rd)

**NOTE:** Sen. Blake Tillery (19th), Sen. Brian Strickland (17th), Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), and Sen. John Kennedy (18th) were absent.

Chairman Stone (23rd) called the meeting to order at 4:09 p.m.

**[HB 21](#) (Rep. Efstration, 104th, LC 28 8968) Gwinnett Judicial Circuit; additional judge of the superior court; provide**

The Chair recognized Rep. Chuck Efstration (104th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Efstration (104th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Ligon (3rd) who made a motion that **HB 21 Do Pass (LC 28 8968)**. Sen. Parent (42nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 21 DO PASS (LC 28 8968)**

**[SB 9](#) (Sen. Jones, 22nd, LC 41 1654) Invasion of privacy; sexual extortion; prohibit; definitions; elements of the crime; provide**

The Chair recognized Sen. Jones (22nd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Jones (22nd) 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:*

Mr. Thomas Weaver, a private citizen

Ms. Chelsea Green, a private citizen

Ms. Kathleen Owens, Orrick, Herrington, Sutcliffe LLP

Mr. Robert Smith, Prosecuting Attorneys' Council

*Testimony in opposition to the Bill:*

Ms. Jill Travis, Georgia Criminal Defense Lawyers

**Committee Recommendation: SB 9 (LC 41 1654) No action was taken.**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:58 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Sen. Jesse Stone (23rd), Chairman

/s/ Janelle Bova, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**  
**Wednesday, February 20, 2019**

The Senate Committee on Judiciary held its fourth meeting of the 2019 Legislative Session on Wednesday, February 20, 2019, at 4:00 p.m. in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building. The following members were in attendance:

Sen. Jesse Stone (23rd), Chairman  
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Vice-Chairman (Arrived Late)  
Sen. Bill Heath (31st)  
Sen. Harold V. Jones II (22nd)  
Sen. John Kennedy (18th)  
Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd)  
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd)  
Sen. Michael Rhett (33rd)  
Sen. Brian Strickland (17th)

**NOTE:** Sen. Blake Tillery (19th) was absent.

Chairman Stone (23rd) called the meeting to order at 4:12 p.m.

**SB 104** (Sen. Payne, 54th, LC 46 0070ER) **Resuscitation; parental requirement for consent; revise**

The Chair recognized Sen. Chuck Payne (54th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Payne (54th) 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:*

Mr. Cole Muzio of Family Police Alliance of Georgia

**NOTE:** Sen. Parent (42nd) left at 4:22 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Cowsert (46th) arrived at 4:24 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Parent (42nd) returned at 4:24 p.m.

**Committee Recommendation: SB 104 (LC 46 0070ER) No action was taken.**

**SB 9 (Sen. Jones, 22nd, LC 41 1654) Invasion of privacy; sexual extortion; prohibit; definitions; elements of the crime; provide**

The Chair recognized Sen. Jones (22nd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Jones (22nd) presented the bill to the Committee.

**NOTE:** Sen. Parent (42nd) left at 4:28 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Parent (42nd) returned at 4:31 p.m.

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

*Testimony in favor of the Bill:*

Mr. Robert Smith of the Prosecuting Attorneys' Council

**Committee Recommendation: SB 9 (LC 41 1654) No action was taken.**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:52 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Sen. Jesse Stone (23rd), Chairman

/s/ Janelle Bova, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**  
**Thursday, February 21, 2019**

The Senate Committee on Judiciary held its fifth meeting of the 2019 Legislative Session on Thursday, February 21, 2019, at 5:00 p.m. in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building. The following members were in attendance:

Sen. Jesse Stone (23rd), Chairman  
Sen. Blake Tillery (19th), Secretary  
Sen. Bill Heath (31st) (Arrived Late)  
Sen. Harold V. Jones II (22nd)  
Sen. John Kennedy (18th) (Arrived Late)  
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd)  
Sen. Michael Rhett (33rd)  
Sen. Brian Strickland (17th)

**NOTE:** Sen. Cowsert (46th) and Sen. Ligon (3rd) were absent.

Chairman Stone (23rd) called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

**[SB 110](#) (Sen. Stone, 23rd, LC 41 1813) Courts; State-wide Business Court; pursuant to the Constitution of this state; establish**

The Chair presented the bill to the Committee.

**NOTE:** Sen. Kennedy (18th) arrived at 5:12 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Heath (31st) arrived at 5:16 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Parent (42nd) left at 5:27 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Parent (42nd) returned at 5:29 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Parent (42nd) left at 5:30 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Parent (42nd) returned at 5:32 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Tillery (19th) left at 5:32 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Tillery (19th) returned at 5:32 p.m.

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

*Testimony in favor of the Bill:*

Mr. Joel Wooten of Butler Wooten & Peak LLP

**Committee Recommendation: SB 110 (LC 41 1813) No action was taken.**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Sen. Blake Tillery (19th), Secretary

/s/ Janelle Bova, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**  
**Monday, February 25, 2019**

The Senate Committee on Judiciary held its sixth meeting of the 2019 Legislative Session on Monday, February 25, 2019, at 4:00 p.m. in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building. The following members were in attendance:

Sen. Jesse Stone (23rd), Chairman  
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Blake Tillery (19th), Secretary  
Sen. Bill Heath (31st)  
Sen. Harold V. Jones II (22nd)  
Sen. John Kennedy (18th)  
Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd)  
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd)  
Sen. Michael Rhett (33rd) (Arrived Late)  
Sen. Brian Strickland (17th)

**SB 154 (Sen. Gooch, 51st, LC 34 5505) Georgia Coroner's Training Council; hearing complaints from outside parties regarding coroners; provide**

The Chair recognized Sen. Steve Gooch (51st) to present the bill. Sen. Gooch (51st) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Kennedy (18th) made a motion that **SB 154 Do Pass (LC 34 5505)**. Sen. Tillery (19th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Recommendation: SB 154 DO PASS (LC 34 5505)**

**NOTE:** Sen. Rhett (33rd) arrived at 4:19 p.m.

**SB 9 (Sen. Jones, 22nd, LC 41 1654) Invasion of privacy; sexual extortion; prohibit; definitions; elements of the crime; provide**

The Chair recognized Sen. Jones (22nd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Jones (22nd) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Parent (42nd) who made a motion that **SB 9 Do Pass by Substitute**.

Sen. Strickland (17th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Recommendation: SB 9 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 41 1877S)**

**SB 104** (Sen. Payne, 54th, LC 46 0070ER) Resuscitation; parental requirement for consent; revise

The Chair recognized Sen. Chuck Payne (54th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Payne (54th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Ligon (3rd) who made a motion to amend SB 104. Sen. Jones (22nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair recognized Sen. Ligon (3rd) who made a motion that **SB 104 Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Strickland (17th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**NOTE:** Sen. Rhett (33rd) arrived at 4:19 p.m.

**Committee Recommendation: SB 104 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 41 1879ERS)**

**SB 135** (Sen. Walker, 20th, LC 36 3832) Workers' Compensation; certain provisions; change

The Chair recognized Sen. Walker (20th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Walker (20th) presented the bill to the Committee.

**NOTE:** Sen. Parent (42nd) left at 4:38 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Parent (42nd) returned at 4:47 p.m.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

Sen. Ligon (3rd) made a motion that **SB 135 Do Pass (LC 36 3832)**. Sen. Kennedy (18th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Recommendation: SB 135 DO PASS (LC 36 3832)**

**SB 158** (Sen. Strickland, 17th, LC 28 9230ER) "Anti-Trafficking Protective Response Act"

The Chair recognized Sen. Strickland (17th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Strickland (17th) 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:*

Ms. Rachel Humphrey, the Interim President of AAHOA

Ms. Helen Robinson of the YWCA

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Tillery (19th) who made a motion that **SB 158 Do Pass (LC 28 9230ER)**. Sen. Parent (42nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Recommendation: SB 158 DO PASS (LC 28 9230ER)**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:07 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Sen. Blake Tillery (19th), Secretary

/s/ Janelle Bova, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**  
**Wednesday, February 27, 2019**

The Senate Committee on Judiciary held its seventh meeting of the 2019 Legislative Session on Wednesday, February 27, 2019, at 4:00 p.m. in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building. The following members were in attendance:

Sen. Jesse Stone (23rd), Chairman  
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Vice-Chairman (Arrived Late)  
Sen. Blake Tillery (19th), Secretary  
Sen. Bill Heath (31st) (Left Early)  
Sen. Harold V. Jones II (22nd)  
Sen. John Kennedy (18th)  
Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd) (Left Early)  
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd)  
Sen. Michael Rhett (33rd)  
Sen. Brian Strickland (17th)

Chairman Stone (23rd) called the meeting to order at 4:18 p.m.

**[SB 167](#) (Sen. Brass, 28th, LC 48 0061) Relative Search by DFCS; foster placement for a child adjudicated as a dependent; determine such child's permanency plan; provide**

The Chair recognized Sen. Matt Brass (28th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Brass (28th) presented the bill to the Committee.

**NOTE:** Sen. Ligon (3rd) left at 4:27 p.m.

**Committee Recommendation: SB 167 (LC 48 0061) No action was taken.**

**[SB 190](#) (Sen. Kennedy, 18th, LC 41 1839) Child Custody Intrastate Jurisdiction Act; party may bring a counterclaim for contempt in resource to a complaint seeking a change of legal or physical custody; provide**

The Chair recognized Sen. Kennedy (18th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Kennedy (18th) 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:*

Ms. Alice Benton with the Family Law Section of The Georgia State Bar

**NOTE:** Sen. Ligon (3rd) returned at 4:34 p.m.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Tillery (19th) who made a motion that **SB 190 Do Pass (LC 41 1839)**. Sen. Parent (42nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Recommendation: SB 190 DO PASS (LC 41 1839)**

**SB 191** (Sen. Kennedy, 18th, LC 44 1150) Courts; law assistants as law clerks and staff attorneys; rename

The Chair recognized Sen. Kennedy (18th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Kennedy (18th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

Sen. Tillery (19th) made a motion that **SB 191 Do Pass (LC 44 1150)**. Sen. Ligon (3rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Recommendation: SB 191 DO PASS (LC 44 1150)**

**SB 110** (Sen. Stone, 23rd, LC 41 1813) Courts; State-wide Business Court; pursuant to the Constitution of this state; establish

The Chair presented the bill to the Committee.

**NOTE:** Sen. Ligon (3rd) left at 4:40 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Cowsert (46th) arrived at 4:55 p.m.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Tillery (19th) who made a motion to replace references to “Atlanta” with “Macon-Bibb County” in lines 32, 214, 217, 222, 226, and 263. Sen. Kennedy (18th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair recognized Sen. Strickland (17th) who made a motion to replace “both parties” with “all parties” in line 153 and “provided for by law” with “provided for in subsection A in this code section” in lines 199 and 254. Sen. Heath (31st) seconded the motion. The motion passed

unanimously.

The Chair recognized Sen. Heath (31st) who made a motion to add “law in this State” to line 182 and to strike “by the Governor,” in lines 201 and 256. Sen. Jones (22nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**NOTE:** Sen. Heath (31st) left at 5:17 p.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Tillery (19th) who made a motion to move section B to line 61, to renumber roman numerals from line 87, and to change the threshold to \$250,000.00 in all locations through line 98. Sen. Jones (22nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair recognized Sen. Parent (42nd) who made a motion to change “law assistants” to “law clerks or staff attorney,” in all locations. Sen. Jones (22nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair recognized Sen. Kennedy (18th) who made a motion to set clerk pay scale to equal of appellate clerks. Sen. Strickland (17th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair recognized Sen. Strickland (17th) who made a motion strike lines 2-4. Sen. Jones (22nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair recognized Sen. Cowser (46th) who made a motion that **SB 110 Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Kennedy (18th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Recommendation: SB 110 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 41 1895S)**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:32 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Sen. Blake Tillery (19th), Secretary

/s/ Janelle Bova, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**  
**Monday, March 4, 2019**

The Senate Committee on Judiciary held its eighth meeting of the 2019 Legislative Session on Monday, March 4, 2019, at 10:00 a.m. in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building. The following members were in attendance:

Sen. Jesse Stone (23rd), Chairman  
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Vice-Chairman (Left Early)  
Sen. Blake Tillery (19th), Secretary  
Sen. Bill Heath (31st)  
Sen. Harold V. Jones II (22nd) (Left Early)  
Sen. John Kennedy (18th) (Left Early)  
Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd)  
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd)  
Sen. Michael Rhett (33rd) (Left Early)  
Sen. Brian Strickland (17th)

Chairman Stone (23rd) called the meeting to order at 10:21 a.m.

**[SB 222](#) (Sen. Stone, 23rd, LC 29 8163) Criminal Procedure; Georgia Council on Criminal Justice Reform; create**

The Chair presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Kennedy (18th) who made a motion that **SB 222 Do Pass (LC 29 8163)**. Sen. Parent (42nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Recommendation: SB 222 DO PASS (LC 29 8163)**

**[SB 167](#) (Sen. Brass, 28th, LC 48 0061) Relative Search by DFCS; foster placement for a child adjudicated as a dependent; determine such child's permanency plan; provide**

The Chair recognized Sen. Matt Brass (28th) to present the bill. Sen. Brass (28th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Parent (42nd) who made a motion that **SB 167 Do Pass (LC 48 0061)**. Sen. Heath (31st) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Recommendation: SB 167 DO PASS (LC 48 0061)**

**SB 229** (Sen. Robertson, 29th, LC 48 0054) **Courts; parental accountability court divisions to provide alternative adjudication to the traditional judicial system; create**

**NOTE:** Sen. Strickland (17th) left at 10:32 a.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Randy Robertson (29th) and Ms. Jackie Tate with DHS to present the bill. Sen. Robertson (29th) and Ms. Jackie Tate with DHS presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

**NOTE:** Sen. Strickland (17th) returned at 10:35 a.m.

Sen. Strickland (17th) made a motion that **SB 229 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 48 0099S)**. Sen. Tillery (19th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Recommendation: SB 229 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 48 0099S)**

**SB 58** (Sen. Karinshak, 48th, LC 41 1648) **Attorney General; written approval that allows for a private citizen to bring a civil action regarding false taxpayer claims; eliminate requirement**

The Chair recognized Sen. Karinshak (48th) and Michael Sullivan, a partner of Finch McCranie, to present the bill. Sen. Karinshak (48th) and Michael Sullivan, a partner of Finch McCranie, presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair recognized Sen. Parent (42nd) who made a motion that **SB 58 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 41 1927S)**. Sen. Jones (22nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Recommendation: SB 58 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 41 1927S)**

**SB 150 (Sen. Jordan, 6th, LC 48 0023ER) Crimes and Offenses; persons convicted of misdemeanor crimes of family violence receiving, possessing, transporting a firearm; prohibit**

The Committee replaced LC 48 0023ER with a substitute (LC 28 2982S) and only considered the substitute instead.

The Chair recognized Sen. Jennifer Jordan (6th), Ms. Sherry Boston, and Ms. Stephanie Woodard to present the substitute. Sen. Jordan (6th), Ms. Sherry Boston, and Ms. Stephanie Woodard presented the substitute to the Committee.

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

*Testimony in favor of the Bill:*

Ms. April Ross, an advocate survivor

Ms. Janet Paulsen, an advocate survivor

Ms. Sherry Boston from the District Attorney of Dekalb County

Ms. Jennifer Wandle from the District Attorney of Dekalb Count

Mr. Brad Rigby from the District Attorney of Cordele

Mr. Jay Eisner from the Dekalb Police Department

*Testimony in opposition to the Bill:*

None

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Tillery (19th) who made a motion to edit line 18 to tighten the definition to whom this code section applied. Sen. Cowsert (46th) seconded the motion.

Sen. Tillery (19th), Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Heath (31st), Sen. Ligon (3rd) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Strickland (17th), Sen. Jones (22nd), Sen. Parent (42nd), Sen. Rhett (33rd) voted against the motion.

The motion failed by a vote of 4-5.

Sen. Heath (31st) made a motion to amend the bill on line 72, beginning with the word “suffering”, by striking the next nine words. The motion failed due to the lack of a second.

The Chair recognized Sen. Ligon (3rd) who made a motion to clarify the definition of antique firearms and to provide a clear path for restitution of suspended second amendment rights. Sen. Tillery (19th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair suggested that the Committee create a new committee substitute that included the approved amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Strickland (17th) who made a motion that **SB 150 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 41 1928S)**, instead of passing LC 48 0023ER or LC 28 2982S. Sen. Parent (42nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Recommendation: SB 150 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 41 1928S)**

**NOTE:** Sen. Kennedy (18th) left at 11:32 a.m.

**SB 164 (Sen. Cowsert, 46th, LC 48 0076) Bonds and Recognizances; when and under what circumstances persons accused of crimes may be released on their own recognizance; provisions; revise**

The Chair recognized Sen. Cowsert (46th) to present the bill. Sen. Cowsert (46th) presented the bill to the Committee.

**NOTE:** Sen. Parent (42nd) and Sen. Jones (22nd) left at 11:33 a.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Parent (42nd) returned at 11:35 a.m.

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

*Testimony in Opposition to the Bill:*

Ms. Robin Shahar, a private citizen

Mr. Matt McCard, the President of Council of Municipal Court Judges

Ms. Marissa Dodson of the Southern Center for Human Rights

Ms. Sarah Geraghty of the Southern Center for Human Rights

Mr. Russell Gatzmel of the GACDL

Ms. Jill Travis of the GACDL

Ms. Natasha Alladina of the Georgia Juvenile Project

Mr. Tim Smith, a private citizen

Mr. Chris Bruce, the Legislative Director for the ACLU of Georgia

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Ligon (3rd) who made a motion to table SB 164. Sen. Parent (42nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 5-1.

Sen. Strickland (17th), Sen. Heath (31st), Sen. Parent (42nd), Sen. Ligon (3rd), and Sen. Kennedy (18th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Cowsert (46th) voted against the motion.

**Committee Recommendation: SB 164 (LC 48 0076) TABLED**

**NOTE:** Sen. Rhett (33rd) and Sen. Cowsert (46th) left at 12:08 p.m.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:09 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Sen. Blake Tillery (19th), Secretary

/s/ Janelle Bova, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**  
**Wednesday, March 13, 2019**

The Senate Committee on Judiciary held its ninth meeting of the 2019 Legislative Session on Thursday, March 13, 2019, at 4:00 p.m. in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building. The following members were in attendance:

Sen. Jesse Stone (23rd), Chairman  
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Vice-Chairman (Arrived Late)  
Sen. Blake Tillery (19th), Secretary  
Sen. Bill Heath (31st)  
Sen. Harold V. Jones II (22nd)  
Sen. John Kennedy (18th)  
Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd)  
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd)  
Sen. Michael Rhett (33rd)  
Sen. Brian Strickland (17th)

Chairman Stone (23rd) called the meeting to order at 4:09 p.m.

**HB 246 (Rep. Silcox, 52nd, LC 41 1701) Evidence; revise manner by which depositions taken at the instance of the state are paid**

The Chair recognized Rep. Deborah Silcox (52nd) to present the bill. Rep. Silcox (52nd) 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:*

Mr. Peter Skandalakis, the Executive Director of the Prosecuting Attorney's Council

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Strickland (17th) who made a motion that **HB 246 Do Pass (LC 41 1701)**. Sen Parent (42nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Kennedy (18th) will carry the bill in the Senate.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 246 DO PASS (LC 41 1701)**

**HB 387 (Rep. Lumsden, 12th, LC 48 0101S) Property; liens in favor of private, nonprofit, volunteer fire department for instances of fire services that are requested by property owners; provide**

The Chair recognized Rep. Eddie Lumsden (12th) to present the bill. Rep. Lumsden (12th) 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:*

Mr. Michael Shellnutt of the Georgia Firefighter Association

**NOTE:** Sen. Tillery (19th) left at 4:22 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Tillery (19th) returned at 4:29 p.m.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Strickland (17th) who made a motion that **HB 387 Do Pass (LC 48 0101S)**. Sen. Kennedy (18th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 6-2.

Sen. Strickland (17th), Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Ligon (3rd), Sen. Parent (42nd), Sen. Rhett (33rd), and Sen. Jones (22nd) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Tillery (19th) and Sen. Heath (31st) voted against the motion. Sen. Mullis (53rd) will carry the bill in the Senate.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 387 DO PASS (LC 48 0101S)**

**NOTE:** Sen. Cowsert (46th) arrived at 4:35 p.m.

**HB 228 (Rep. Welch, 110th, LC 41 1848S) Marriage; change minimum age from 16 to 17 and require any person who is 17 to have been emancipated**

The Chair recognized Rep. Andy Welch (110th) to present the bill. Rep. Welch (110th) 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:*

Mr. Michael Shellnutt of the Georgia Firefighter Association

Ms. Jennifer Bivens from the Georgia Network to End Sexual Assault

Ms. Jan Christensen from the Georgia Coalition against Domestic Violence

Dr. Brenda Smith from the Interfaith Children's Movement

**NOTE:** Sen. Strickland (17th) and Sen. Cowsert (46th) left at 5:07 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Strickland (17th) and Sen. Cowsert (46th) returned at 5:16 p.m.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 228 (LC 41 1848S) No action was taken.**

**HB 478 (Rep. Ballinger, 23rd, LC 48 0075) Social Services; improvements to the operation of the child abuse registry; provide**

The Chair recognized Rep. Mandi Ballinger (23rd) to present the bill. Rep. Ballinger (23rd) presented the bill to the Committee.

**NOTE:** Sen. Parent (42nd) left at 5:14 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Tillery (19th) left at 5:16 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Jones (22nd) left at 5:19 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Tillery (19th) returned at 5:20 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Tillery (19th) left at 5:21 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Parent (42nd) and Sen. Jones (22nd) returned at 5:23 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Tillery (19th) returned at 5:28 p.m.

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

*Testimony in favor of the Bill:*

Ms. Kaitlin Barnes of the Barton Center

Ms. Jill Travis of the Georgia Defense Lawyers

**Committee Recommendation: HB 478 (LC 48 0075) No action taken.**

**HB 311 (Rep. Welch, 110th, LC 34 5544S) State Government; waiver of sovereign immunity as to actions ex contractu and state tort claims; provisions**

**NOTE:** Ligon (3rd) left at 6:02 p.m.

The Chair recognized Rep. Welch (110th) to present the bill. Rep. Welch (110th) 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:*

Mr. Aaron Littman of the Staff Attorney for Southern Center for Human Rights

Mr. Rusi Patel of the GMA

Mr. Robert Smith of the Prosecuting Attorney's Council Mr. Larry Ramsey of ACCG Mr. Bill Clark of GTLA spoke on the bill.

**NOTE:** Ligon (3rd) returned at 6:11 p.m.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 311 (LC 34 5544S) No action was taken.**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Sen. Blake Tillery (19th), Secretary

/s/ Janelle Bova, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**  
**Thursday, March 14, 2019**

The Senate Committee on Judiciary held its tenth meeting of the 2019 Legislative Session on Thursday, March 14, 2019, at 4:00 p.m. in the Senate Mezzanine. The following members were in attendance:

Sen. Jesse Stone (23rd), Chairman  
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Vice-Chairman (Arrived Late)  
Sen. Bill Heath (31st)  
Sen. Harold V. Jones II (22nd)  
Sen. John Kennedy (18th) (Arrived Late) (Left Early)  
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd)  
Sen. Michael Rhett (33rd)  
Sen. Brian Strickland (17th)

**NOTE:** Sen. Blake Tillery (19th) and Sen. William Ligon (3rd) were absent.

Chairman Stone (23rd) called the meeting to order at 4:16 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Kennedy (18th) arrived at 4:17 p.m.

**[HB 64](#) (Rep. Prince, 127th, LC 48 0060S) Parent and child; require child welfare agencies to make efforts to determine whether a parent or guardian of a child who is the subject of abuse allegations is on active duty in the military**

The Chair recognized Rep. Brian Prince (127th) to present the bill. Rep. Prince (127th) presented the bill to the Committee.

**NOTE:** Sen. Cowsert (46th) arrived at 4:23 p.m.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Rhett (33rd) who made a motion that **HB 64 (LC 48 0060S) Do Pass**. Sen. Cowsert (46th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Parent (42nd) will carry the bill in the Senate.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 64 DO PASS (LC 48 0060S)**

**[HB 70](#) (Rep. Efstoration, 104th, LC 48 0108S) Guardian and ward; guardian and conservators of minors and adults; revise provisions**

The Chair recognized Mr. Rusty Sewell and Mr. Kyle King of the State Bar of Georgia to present the bill. Mr. Rusty Sewell and Mr. Kyle King of the State Bar of Georgia presented the bill to the Committee.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 70 (LC 48 0108S) No action was taken.**

**HB 307 (Rep. Powell, 32nd, LC 39 2162S) Abandoned Motor Vehicle Act; enact**

The Chair recognized Mr. Les Schneider to present the bill. Mr. Les Schneider presented the bill to the Committee.

**NOTE:** Sen. Kennedy (18th) left at 5:39 p.m.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 307 (LC 39 22325) No action was taken.**

**HB 472 (Rep. Reeves, 34th, LC 48 0097S) Juvenile Code; procedures concerning removal considerations**

The Chair recognized Rep. Bert Reeves (34th) and Mr. Tom Rawlings, the Director of DFCS to present the bill. Rep. Reeves (34th) and Mr. Tom Rawlings, the Director of DFCS presented the bill to the Committee.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 472 (LC 48 0097S) No action was taken.**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Sen. Jesse Stone (23rd), Chairman

/s/ Janelle Bova, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**  
**Monday, March 18, 2019**

The Senate Committee on Judiciary held its eleventh meeting of the 2019 Legislative Session on Monday, March 18, 2019, at 4:00 p.m. in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building. The following members were in attendance:

Sen. Jesse Stone (23rd), Chairman  
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Blake Tillery (19th), Secretary  
Sen. Bill Heath (31st) (Arrived Late) (Left Early)  
Sen. Harold V. Jones II (22nd)  
Sen. John Kennedy (18th)  
Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd) (Arrived Late) (Left Early)  
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd)  
Sen. Michael Rhett (33rd) (Arrived Late)  
Sen. Brian Strickland (17th)

Chairman Stone (23rd) called the meeting to order at 4:11 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Heath (31st) and Sen. Rhett (33rd) arrived at 4:12 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Ligon (3rd) arrived at 4:15 p.m.

**[HB 234](#) (Rep. Efstrotation, 104th, LC 34 5518ERS) Anti-Human Trafficking Protective Response Act; enact**

The Chair recognized Sen. Strickland (17th) to present the bill. Sen. Strickland (17th) 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:*

Ms. Camila Zolfagheri of Street Grace  
Mr. Peter Skandalakis, the Executive Director of the Prosecuting Attorney's Council  
Mr. Jim Sprouse of the Georgia Hotel & Lodging Association  
Ms. Helen Robinson of the YWCA of Greater Atlanta

*Testimony in opposition to the Bill:*

Mr. Thomas Weaver, a private citizen, voiced concern about the bill.

Ms. Jane Robbins, a private citizen

**NOTE:** Sen. Kennedy (18th) left at 4:53 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Kennedy (18th) returned at 4:59 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Tillery (19th) left at 5:00 p.m.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 234 (LC 34 5518 ERS) No action was taken.**

**HB 281 (Rep. Anulewicz, 42nd, LC 28 9236S) Crimes and offenses; pimping and pandering; increase penalty provisions**

The Chair recognized Sen. Robertson (29th) to present the bill. Sen. Robertson (29th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Rhett (33rd) who made a motion that **HB 281 Do Pass (LC 28 9236S)**. Sen. Parent (42nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Robertson (29th) will carry the bill in the Senate.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 281 DO PASS (LC 28 9236S)**

**HB 282 (Rep. Holcomb, 81st, LC 28 9318S) Criminal procedure; increase amount of time that law enforcement agencies are required to preserve certain evidence of sexual assault**

**NOTE:** Sen. Tillery (19th) returned at 5:08 p.m.

The Chair recognized Rep. Scott Holcomb (81st) to present the bill. Rep. Holcomb (81st) presented the bill to the Committee.

**NOTE:** Sen. Ligon (3rd) left at 5:19 p.m.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Tillery (19th) who made a motion to strike lines 18 and 19. Sen. Strickland (17th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair recognized Sen. Parent (42nd) who made a motion that **HB 282 Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen Jones seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 282 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 41 1983S)**

**HB 424** (Rep. Silcox, 52nd, LC 28 9259S) Crimes and offenses; include certain sex crimes into the definition of criminal gang activity

The Chair recognized Rep. Deborah Silcox (52nd) to present the bill. Rep. Silcox (52nd) 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:*

Mr. Chuck Boring, a DA from Cobb County

*Testimony in opposition to the Bill:*

Mr. Thomas Weaver, a private citizen

**NOTE:** Sen. Heath (31st) left at 5:42 p.m.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 424 (LC 28 9259S) No action was taken.**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:42 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Sen. Blake Tillery (19th), Secretary

/s/ Janelle Bova, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**  
**Wednesday, March 20, 2019**

The Senate Committee on Judiciary held its twelfth meeting of the 2019 Legislative Session on Wednesday, March 20, 2019, at 4:00 p.m. in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building. The following members were in attendance:

Sen. Jesse Stone (23rd), Chairman  
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Vice-Chairman (Arrived Late)  
Sen. Blake Tillery (19th), Secretary (Left Early)  
Sen. Bill Heath (31st)  
Sen. Harold V. Jones II (22nd) (Arrived Late)  
Sen. John Kennedy (18th)  
Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd)  
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd)  
Sen. Michael Rhett (33rd) (Arrived Late)  
Sen. Brian Strickland (17th)

Chairman Stone (23rd) called the meeting to order at 4:27 p.m.

**HB 70 (Rep. Efstration, 104th, LC 48 0038S) Guardian and ward; guardian and conservators of minors and adults; revise provisions**

The Chair recognized Rep. Chuck Efstration (104th) to present the bill. Rep. Efstration (104th) presented the bill to the Committee.

**NOTE:** Sen. Rhett (33rd) arrived at 4:29 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Jones (22nd) arrived at 4:30 p.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Strickland (17th) who made a motion that **HB 70 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 48 0108S)**. Sen. Kennedy (18th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 6-2.

Sen. Ligon (3rd), Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Strickland (17th), Sen. Heath (31st), Sen. Jones (22nd), and Sen. Rhett (33rd) votes in favor of the motion.

Sen. Tillery (19th) and Sen. Parent (42nd) voted against the motion. Sen. Stone (23rd) will carry the bill in the Senate.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 70 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 48 0108S)**

**HB 239 (Rep. Efstrotation, 104th, LC 41 1888S) Georgia Business Court; establish**

The Chair 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:*

Mr. Walt Davis, Co-Chair of the Atlanta Bar

Mr. Kyle Jackson and Mr. Rocco Testani of the Georgia Chamber

**NOTE:** Sen. Cowsert (46th) arrived at 4:48 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Ligon (3rd) left at 5:10 p.m.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 239 (LC 41 1888S) No action was taken.**

**HB 228 (Rep. Welch, 110th, LC 41 1848S) Marriage; change minimum age from 16 to 17 and require any person who is 17 to have been emancipated**

The Chair recognized Rep. Andy Welch (110th) to present the bill. Rep. Welch (110th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Tillery (19th) who made a motion that **HB 228 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 41 1970S)**. Sen. Parent (42nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Kennedy (18th) will carry the bill in the Senate.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 228 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 41 1970S)**

**NOTE:** Sen. Ligon (3rd) returned at 5:16 p.m.

**HB 307 (Rep. Powell, 32nd, LC 39 2162S) Abandoned Motor Vehicle Act; enact**

The Chair recognized Rep. Alan Powell (32nd) and Mr. Les Schneider to present the bill. Rep. Powell (32nd) and Mr. Les Schneider presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Strickland (17th) who made a motion that **HB 307 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 39 2353S)**. Sen. Tillery (19th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Stone (23rd) will carry the bill in the Senate.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 307 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 39 2353S)**

**HB 311 (Rep. Welch, 110th, LC 41 5544S) State Government; waiver of sovereign immunity as to actions ex contractu and state tort claims; provisions**

The Chair recognized Rep. Andy Welch (110th) to present the bill. Rep. Welch (110th) 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:*

Mr. Thomas Weaver, a private citizen

Ms. Marissa Dodson of the Southern Center for Human Rights

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Strickland (17th) made a motion that **HB 311 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 41 1991S)**. Sen. Rhett (33rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Kennedy (18th) will carry the bill in the Senate.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 311 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 41 1991S)**

**NOTE:** Sen. Tillery (19th) left at 5:48 p.m.

**HB 478 (Rep. Ballinger, 23rd, LC 48 0075) Social Services; improvements to the operation of the child abuse registry; provide**

The Chair recognized Rep. Mandi Ballinger (23rd) and Mr. Robert Smith of the Prosecuting Attorneys' Council to present the bill. Rep. Ballinger (23rd) and Mr. Robert Smith of the Prosecuting Attorneys' Council presented the bill to the Committee.

**NOTE:** Sen. Cowsert (46th) left at 5:53 p.m.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Parent (42nd) who made a motion that **HB 478 Do Pass by**

**Substitute (LC 48 0112S).** Sen. Strickland (17th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Parent (42nd) will carry the bill in the Senate.

**NOTE:** Chairman Stone (23rd) moved that the Committee stand in recess at 6:03 p.m.

**NOTE:** Chairman Stone (23rd) called the Committee back to order at 6:10 p.m.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 478 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 48 0112S)**

**HB 346 (Rep. Cooper, 43rd, LC 41 1918) Property; prohibit retaliation by a landlord against a tenant for taking certain actions**

The Chair recognized Rep. Sharon Cooper (43rd) and Ms. Elizabeth Appley to present the bill. Rep. Cooper (43rd) and Ms. Elizabeth Appley 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:*

Mr. Rusi Patel of the GMA.

Mr. Cole Thaler of the Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation

Ms. Danna Thompson, of The Children's Healthcare of Atlanta

Ms. Pam Kreidler, a private citizen

Ms. Polly McKinney, of the Voices for Georgia Children

Mr. Michael Murphy, the special assistant to Cobb County Chairman

Mr. Michael Waller, of The Georgia Appleseed Center for Law

*Testimony in opposition to the Bill:*

Mr. David Metzger, a real estate attorney

Ms. Emily Preston and Mr. Jet Toney, of the Georgia Affordable Housing Coalition

**NOTE:** Sen. Parent (42nd) left at 7:21 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Parent (42nd) returned at 7:23 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Strickland (17th) left at 7:28 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Strickland (17th) returned at 7:35 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Jones (22nd) left at 7:51 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Jones (22nd) returned at 7:53 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Ligon (3rd) left at 8:05 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Rhett (33rd) left at 8:05 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Rhett (33rd) returned at 8:09 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Ligon (3rd) returned at 8:09 p.m.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Strickland (17th) who made a motion to amend HB 346 for the purpose of striking “actual damages” in line 62 as well as striking “or injunctive” in line 63. Sen. Rhett (33rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair recognized Sen. Strickland (17th) who made a motion to amend HB 346 for the purpose of creating a subsection f and deleting “relative to address” in line 24. Sen. Kennedy (18th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair recognized Sen. Kennedy (18th) who made a motion to amend HB 346 for the purpose of striking “materially” in line 52 and changing “6” to “3” in line 28. Sen. Strickland (17th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair recognized Sen. Strickland (17th) who made a motion that **HB 346 Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Jones (22nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 6-1.

Sen. Ligon (3rd), Sen. Rhett (33rd), Sen. Strickland (17th), Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Jones (22nd), and Sen. Parent (42nd) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Heath (31st) voted in opposition to the motion. Sen. Stone (23rd) will carry the bill in the Senate.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 346 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 41 1998S)**

**HB 353 (Rep. Carpenter, 4th, LC 34 5541S) Insurance; create the crime of staging a motor vehicle collision**

The Chair recognized Rep. Carpenter (4th) to present the bill. Rep. Carpenter (4th) 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:*

Mr. Konrad Pilatowicz, of Uhaul

Mr. Nathan Humphrey, of NFIB

**NOTE:** Sen. Ligon (3rd) left at 8:48 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Ligon (3rd) returned at 8:50 p.m.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 353 (LC 34 5541S) No action was taken.**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Sen. Jesse Stone (23rd), Chairman

/s/ Janelle Bova, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**  
**Thursday, March 21, 2019**

The Senate Committee on Judiciary held its thirteenth meeting of the 2019 Legislative Session on Thursday, March 21, 2019, at 4:00 p.m. in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building. The following members were in attendance:

Sen. Jesse Stone (23rd), Chairman  
Sen. Blake Tillery (19th), Secretary  
Sen. Bill Heath (31st)  
Sen. Harold V. Jones II (22nd) (Arrived Late)  
Sen. John Kennedy (18th)  
Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd)  
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd)  
Sen. Michael Rhett (33rd)  
Sen. Brian Strickland (17th)

**NOTE:** Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th) was absent.

Chairman Stone (23rd) called the meeting to order at 4:11 p.m.

**HB 239 (Rep. Efstration, 104<sup>th</sup>, LC 41 1888S) Georgia Business Court; establish**

The Chair presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Strickland (17th) who made a motion to insert “a consumer shall not be allowed” in lines 139 and 155. Sen. Ligon (3rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**NOTE:** Sen. Jones (22nd) arrived at 4:18 p.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Strickland (17th) who made a motion that **HB 239 Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Parent (42nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 239 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 41 2006S)**

**HB 288 (Rep. Powell, 32nd, LC 41 1904S) Superior courts; revise the sums that the clerks are entitled to charge and collect for filing documents and instruments pertaining to real estate or personal property**

The Chair recognized Rep. Alan Powell (32nd) to present the bill. Rep. Powell (32nd) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Ligon (3rd) who made a motion that **HB 288 Do Pass (LC 41 1904S)**. Sen. Kennedy (18th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 6-2.

Sen. Ligon (3rd), Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Strickland (17th), Sen. Parent (42nd), Sen. Jones (22nd), and Sen. Rhett (33rd) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Heath (31st) and Sen. Tillery (17th) voted against the motion.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 288 DO PASS (LC 41 1904S)**

**HB 472 (Rep. Reeves, 34th, LC 48 0097S) Juvenile Code; procedures concerning removal considerations; revise**

The Chair recognized Rep. Bert Reeves (34th) to present the bill. Rep. Reeves (34th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Strickland (17th) made a motion that **HB 472 Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Parent (42nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 472 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 41 2004S)**

**HB 118 (Rep. Morris, 26th, LC 41 1894S) Crimes and offenses; transmitting a false alarm; revise offense**

The Chair recognized Rep. Marc Morris (26th) to present the bill. Rep. Morris (26th) presented the bill to the Committee.

**NOTE:** Sen. Parent (42nd) left at 4:43 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Strickland (17th) left at 4:45 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Parent (42nd) returned at 4:47 p.m.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 118 (LC 41 1894S) No action was taken.**

**HB 470 (Rep. Sainz, 180th, LC 28 9295S) Law enforcement officers and agencies**

The Chair recognized Rep. Steven Sainz (180th) and Mr. Pete Skandalakis to present the bill. Rep. Sainz (180th) and Mr. Pete Scandalakis presented the bill to the Committee.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 470 (LC 28 9295S) No action was taken.**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:56 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Sen. Blake Tillery (19th), Secretary

/s/ Janelle Bova, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**  
**Monday, March 25, 2019**

The Senate Committee on Judiciary held its fourteenth meeting of the 2019 Legislative Session on Monday, March 25, 2019, at 6:00 p.m. in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building. The following members were in attendance:

Sen. Jesse Stone (23rd), Chairman  
Sen. Blake Tillery (19th), Secretary  
Sen. Bill Heath (31st)  
Sen. Harold V. Jones II (22nd)  
Sen. John Kennedy (18th) (Left Early)  
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd)  
Sen. Michael Rhett (33rd)

**NOTE:** Sen. Brian Strickland (17th), Sen. Bill Cowser (46th), and Sen. William Ligon (3rd) were absent.

Chairman Stone (23rd) called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

**[HB 353](#) (Rep. Carpenter, 4th, LC 34 5541S) Insurance; create the crime of staging a motor vehicle collision**

The Chair recognized Rep. Kasey Carpenter (4th) to present the bill. Rep. Carpenter (4th) presented the bill to the Committee.

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

*Testimony in opposition to the Bill:*

Ms. Jill Travis of the GACDL

The Chair recognized Sen. Tillery (19th) who made a motion to insert “serious” into line 19. Sen. Heath (31st) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair recognized Sen. Heath (31st) who made a motion **that HB 353 Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Kennedy (18th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 353 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 41 2023S)**

**HB 424 (Rep. Silcox, 52nd, LC 28 9259S) Crimes and offenses; include certain sex crimes into the definition of criminal gang activity**

The Chair recognized Rep. Deborah Silcox (52nd) to present the bill. Rep. Silcox (52nd) 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:*

Ms. Jill Travis of the GACDL

The Chair recognized Sen. Parent (42nd) who made a motion to amend HB 424 to replace section 3 with section 1. Sen. Jones (22nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 424 (LC 28 9259S) No action was taken.**

**NOTE:** Sen. Kennedy (18th) left at 6:44 p.m.

**HB 79 (Rep. Gilliard, 162nd, LC 48 0012) Blind persons; child custody matters; provisions**

The Chair recognized Rep. Carl Gilliard (162nd) to present the bill. Rep. Gilliard (162nd) 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:*

Ms. Jackie Anderson, of the National Federation of the Blind

Mr. Greg Aikens, of the National Federation of the Blind

The Chair recognized Sen. Tillery (19th) who made a motion to amend line 43. Sen. Parent (42nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair recognized Sen. Parent (42nd) who made a motion that **HB 79 Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Jones (22nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 5-1.

Sen. Tillery (19th), Sen. Rhett (33rd), Sen. Parent (42nd), Sen. Jones (22nd), and Sen. Kennedy (18th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Heath (31st) voted against the motion.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 79 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 41 2022S)**

**HB 91** (Rep. Welch, 110th, LC 33 7576) Federal Bureau of Investigation to retain fingerprints when an agency or entity is participating in the Georgia Bureau of Investigation's program

The Chair recognized Rep. Andy Welch (110th) to present the bill. Rep. Welch (110th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair recognized Sen. Parent (42nd) who made a motion that **HB 91 Do Pass (LC 33 7576)**. Sen. Rhett (33rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Kennedy (18th) will carry the bill in the Senate.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 91 DO PASS (LC 33 7576)**

**HB 118** (Rep. Morris, 26th, LC 41 1894S) Crimes and offenses; transmitting a false alarm; revise offense

The Chair recognized Rep. Marc Morris (26th) to present the bill. Rep. Morris (26th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair recognized Sen. Tillery (19th) who made a motion to insert “serious” in line 65. Sen. Jones (22nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair recognized Sen. Tillery (19th) who made a motion that **HB 118 Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Jones (22nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Dolezal (27th) will carry the bill in the Senate.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 118 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 41 2021S)**

**HB 296** (Rep. Hawkins, 27th, LC 41 1926S) Superior Court of Hall County in the Northeastern Circuit; revise term of court

The Chair recognized Rep. Lee Hawkins (27th) to present the bill. Rep. Hawkins (27th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair recognized Sen. Jones (22nd) who made a motion that **HB 296 Do Pass (LC 41 1926S)**. Sen. Tillery (19th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Miller (49<sup>th</sup>) will carry the bill in the Senate.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 296 DO PASS (LC 41 1926S)**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Sen. Blake Tillery (19th), Secretary

/s/ Janelle Bova, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**  
**Wednesday, March 27, 2019**

The Senate Committee on Judiciary held its fifteenth meeting of the 2019 Legislative Session on Wednesday, March 27, 2019, at 4:00 p.m. in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building. The following members were in attendance:

Sen. Jesse Stone (23rd), Chairman  
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Blake Tillery (19th), Secretary  
Sen. Bill Heath (31st)  
Sen. Harold V. Jones II (22nd) (Arrived Late)  
Sen. John Kennedy (18th) (Arrived Late)  
Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd)  
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd) (Arrived Late)  
Sen. Michael Rhett (33rd)  
Sen. Brian Strickland (17th)

Chairman Stone (23rd) called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m.

**[HB 424](#) (Rep. Silcox, 52nd, LC 41 2029S) Crimes and offenses; include certain sex crimes into the definition of criminal gang activity**

The Chair recognized Rep. Deborah Silcox (52nd) to present the bill. Rep. Silcox (52nd) presented the bill to the Committee.

**NOTE:** Sen. Parent (42nd) arrived at 4:11 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Kennedy (18th) arrived at 4:12 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Jones (22nd) arrived at 4:14 p.m.

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

*Testimony in opposition to the Bill:*

Mr. Thomas Weaver, a private citizen

The Chair recognized Sen. Strickland (17th) made a motion that **HB 424 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 41 2029S)**. Sen. Tillery (19th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Kennedy (18th) will carry the bill in the Senate.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 424 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 41 2029S)**

**HB 470 (Rep. Sainz, 180th, LC 28 9295S) Law enforcement officers and agencies**

The Chair recognized Rep. Steven Sainz (180th) and Mr. Pete Scandalakis to present the bill. Rep. Sainz (180th) and Mr. Pete Scandalakis presented the bill to the Committee.

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

*Testimony in opposition to the Bill:*

Mr. Thomas Weaver, a private citizen

The Chair recognized Sen. Tillery (19th) who made a motion to strike “and” in lines 39, 50, and 57 and to instead use “or.” Sen. Kennedy (18th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair recognized Sen. Strickland (17th) who made a motion that **HB 470 Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Rhett (33rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Ligon (3rd) will carry the bill in the Senate.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 470 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 41 2034S)**

**HB 543 (Rep. Efstration, 104th, LC 41 1915S) Domestic relations; equitable caregivers; provide**

The Chair recognized Rep. Efstration (104th) to present the bill. Rep. Efstration (104th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair recognized Sen. Tillery (19th) who made a motion that **HB 543 Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Parent (42nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Brass (28th) will carry the bill in the Senate.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 543 DO PASS (LC 41 1967S)**

**HB 381 (Rep. Efstration, 104th, LC 41 1907S) Child support; defined terms and terminology, grammar, and punctuation; revise and correct**

The Chair recognized Rep. Chuck Efstration (104th) to present the bill. Rep. Efstration (104th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair recognized Sen. Strickland (17th) who made a motion that **HB 381 Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Kennedy (18th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Stone (23rd) will carry the bill in the Senate.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 381 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 41 2020S)**

**HB 230 (Rep. Holcomb, 81st, LC 48 0037) Business corporations; provide for benefit corporations**

The Chair recognized Rep. Scott Holcomb (81st) to present the bill. Rep. Holcomb (81st) presented the bill to the Committee.

**NOTE:** Sen. Strickland (17th) left at 4:55 p.m.

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

*Testimony in favor of the Bill:*

Mr. Gordon Kamma, a private citizen

Mr. Jeff Woodward, of Taylor English

Mr. Brian Cayce, of Gray Ghost Venture

Mr. Jon Jackson, of Comfort Farms

Mr. John Hardman, of Woodleaf Partners

**NOTE:** Sen. Heath (31st) left at 5:21 p.m.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 230 (LC 48 0037) No action was taken.**

**HB 396 (Rep. Washburn, 141st, LC 41 1887S) Crimes and offenses; unlawful for a person with intent to defraud a creditor's rights to deed or otherwise transfer title to real property to another person without the knowledge or consent of such other person; provide**

The Chair recognized Rep. Dale Washburn (141st) and Mr. Jeff Ledford, of Georgia Realtors, to present the bill. Rep. Washburn (141st) and Mr. Jeff Ledford, of Georgia Realtors, presented the bill to the Committee.

**NOTE:** Sen. Parent (42nd) left at 5:33 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Parent (42nd) returned at 5:38 p.m.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 396 (LC 41 1887S) No action was taken.**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:53 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Sen. Blake Tillery (19th), Secretary

/s/ Janelle Bova, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**  
**Wednesday, August 14, 2019**

The Senate Committee on Judiciary held a joint confirmation hearing with the House Judiciary Committee for the Governor's nominee for the Statewide Business Court. The meeting was called to order on Wednesday, August 14, 2019, at 1:00 p.m. in Room 506 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building. The following members were in attendance:

Sen. Jesse Stone (23rd), Chairman  
Sen. Blake Tillery (19th), Secretary  
Sen. Bill Heath (31st)  
Sen. Harold V. Jones II (22nd)  
Sen. John Kennedy (18th)  
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd)  
Sen. Michael Rhett (33rd) (*Arrived Late*)  
Sen. Brian Strickland (17th)

**NOTE:** Sen. William Ligon (3rd) and Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th) were absent.

Chairman Stone (23rd) called the joint meeting to order at 1:35pm.

Chairman Stone (23rd) introduced the committee to Walt Davis, the Governor's nominee for Judge of the Georgia Statewide Business Court.

*Testimony in favor of Walt Davis:*

David Dove- Governor Kemp's Executive Counsel  
Al LaFiandra- Partner in charge of Jones Day Atlanta  
Marty Ellen- Director of Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation  
Walt Davis- Governor's nominee

*Testimony in opposition to Walt Davis:*

None

The Chair opened the floor for debate and questions.

**NOTE:** Sen. Rhett (33rd) arrived at 2:39p.m.

**NOTE:** Without objection, Chairman Stone (23rd) adjourned the joint meeting at 3:10 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Rhett (33rd) left at 3:11pm.

**NOTE:** Chairman Stone (23rd) called the Senate Judiciary Committee to order at 3:17p.m in room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building for the purpose of voting on the confirmation of the Governor's nominee for the Statewide Business Court.

The Chair recognized Sen. Kennedy (18th) who made a motion that the Committee confirm Walt Davis as Judge for Georgia's Statewide Business Court. Sen. Jones (22nd) seconded the motion. Walt Davis was confirmed unanimously 6-0 (Kennedy, Tillery, Strickland, Heath, Parent, Jones).

With no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 3:19pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Sen. Blake Tillery (19th), Secretary

/s/ Janelle Bova, Recording Secretary