

**THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON SPECIAL JUDICIARY  
2019 ROSTER**

**Sen. Jennifer Jordan, Chairwoman**

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

**Sen. Sally Harrell**

District 40  
P.O. Box 941365  
Atlanta, GA 31141

**Sen. Donzella James, Vice-Chairwoman**

District 35  
P.O. Box 311225  
Atlanta, GA 30331

**Sen. Zahra Karinshak**

District 48  
P.O. Box 956034  
Duluth, GA 30095

**Sen. Elena Parent, Secretary**

District 42  
1250 Oakdale Road NE  
Atlanta, GA 30307

**Sen. Sheikh Rahman**

District 5  
779 Simon Way  
Lawrenceville, GA 30045

**Sen. Tonya Anderson**

District 43  
P.O. Box 1026  
Lithonia, GA 30058

**Sen. Nikema Williams**

District 39  
P.O. Box 92386  
Atlanta, GA 30314

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON SPECIAL JUDICIARY**  
**Tuesday, February 19, 2019**

The Senate Committee on Special Judiciary held a meeting on Tuesday, February 19, 2019, at 5:00 p.m. in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building (CLOB). The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Jennifer Jordan (6th), Chairwoman  
Sen. Donzella James (35th), Vice-Chairwoman  
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd), Secretary  
Sen. Tonya Anderson (43rd)  
Sen. Sally Harrell (40th)  
Sen. Zahra Karinshak (48th)  
Sen. Sheikh Rahman (5th)  
Sen. Nikema Williams (39th)

Chairwoman Jordan (6th) called the meeting to order at 5:11 p.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Elena Parent (42nd) to make a motion to adopt the rules. Sen. Zahra Karinshak seconded the motion. The Rules were adopted unanimously. A copy of the Rules is attached.

**SB 32 (Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick, 32nd, LC 39 2023) Torts; conditions upon immunity from civil liability in instances of rendering emergency care; provide**

The Chair recognized Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) for the purpose of presenting SB 32. Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public. Chairwoman Jordan (6th) recognized the following:

*Testimony in favor to the bill:*

Francis Mulcahy of the Georgia Canine Coalition  
Chuck Boring of the Cobb County District Attorney's Office  
Claudine Wilkins of Animal Law Source  
Debra Berger of Humane Society of the United States

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Parent (42nd), who made a motion to amend the bill. Sen. Karinshak (48th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The chairwoman recognized Sen. Karinshak (48th) who made a motion that **SB 32 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 48 0070S)**. Sen. Sally Harrell (40th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Recommendation: SB 32 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 48 0070S)**

**SB 69 (Sen. Steve Henson, 41st, LC 47 0048) Animal Protection; persons convicted of cruelty to animals after July 1, 2019 from obtaining pet animals; prohibit**

Sen. Jordan recognized Sen. Henson (41st) to present the bill to the committee.

Sen. Henson presented the bill and a proposed substitute to SB 69 to the Committee (**LC 47 0090S**).

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public. Chairwoman Jordan (6th) recognized the following:

*Testimony in favor to the bill:*

Debra Berger of Human Society of the United States

**Committee Recommendation: SB 69 (Sen. Henson, 41st) No action was taken**

Chairwoman Jordan (6th) adjourned the meeting at 6:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

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M. Mercedes Benites, Recording Secretary

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

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Each member of the Committee should be mindful of the Senate Rules, especially regarding attendance.

1. A Quorum of the Committee shall be 5 members.
2. The Chairwoman shall determine which bills and resolutions are to be considered and the order in which said measures are considered.
3. The Chairwoman 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 a time as shall be designated by the Chairwoman.
4. The Committee shall convene, recess, and adjourn upon the order of the Chairwoman.
5. A bill or resolution will be considered only after presentation by its principal author or other legislator whose name appears first or second on the list of authors or co-sponsors, unless the author or co-sponsor has made other arrangements with the Chairwoman.
6. No member of the Committee shall be allowed to vote by proxy.
7. Members may not abstain from voting unless the member or any member of the Senator's immediate family has a direct pecuniary interest in the result of such vote, which interest is distinct, unique, or peculiar to the Senator or the Senator's immediate family.
8. Any member of the Committee who disagrees with the majority report of the Committee shall be privileged to file a minority report if they so desire.
9. These Rules may be amended upon a motion duly made and subsequently approved by two thirds of the members of the Committee.
10. Where these Rules are silent on a specific issue, the Rules of the Senate as adopted shall govern.

## MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON SPECIAL JUDICIARY

**Tuesday, February 26, 2019**

The Senate Committee on Special Judiciary held a meeting on Tuesday February 26, 2019, at 5:30 p.m. in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building (CLOB). The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Jennifer Jordan (6th), Chairwoman  
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd), Secretary  
Sen. Sally Harrell (40th)  
Sen. Zahra Karinshak (48th)  
Sen. Sheikh Rahman (5th)  
Sen. Nikema Williams (39th) (*Left Early*)

**NOTE:** Sen. Donzella James (35th), Vice-Chairwoman and Sen. Tonya Anderson (43rd) were absent.

Chairwoman Jordan (6th) called the meeting to order at 5:46 p.m.

**SB 29 (Sen. Harold Jones II, 22nd, LC 41 1661) Waiver of Immunity for Motor Vehicle Claims; definition to clarify sheriff, deputy sheriff, other agent, servant, or employee of sheriff's office; include**

The Chair recognized Sen. Jones (22nd), who presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair recognized Sen. Karinshak (48th) who made a motion to amend the bill by adding "sheriff office" to subsection 3. Sen. Rahman seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

The Chair recognized Sen. Harrell (40th) who made a motion that **SB 29 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 48 0095S)**. Sen. Karinshak (48th) seconded the motion. The bill passed unanimously.

**Committee Recommendation: SB 29 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 48 0095S)**

**SB 178 (Sen. P.K. Martin IV, 9th, LC 41 1793) Specialized Land Transactions; statements of accounts under "Georgia Condominium Act" and "Georgia Property Owners' Association Act"; provide**

The Chair recognized Sen. Martin IV (9th) for the purpose of presenting the bill to the Committee.

**NOTE:** Sen. Williams (39th) left at 6:01 p.m.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair presented a proposed amendment to create the new subsection (k) inserting “if requested a copy of the association currently of your budget and prepare the most recent statement and balance sheet.” Subsection (k) became subsection (l). Additionally, the amendment stroke the term “unit owner” on line 231 inserting in its place “lot owner”; additionally, the amendment stroke the term “unit” on line 202, inserting in its place the term “lot.”

The Chair recognized Sen. Parent (42nd) who made a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Sen. Karinshak (48th) seconded the motion. The motion to amend the bill passed unanimously.

The Chair recognized the public to speak regarding the amendment. She recognized the following:

*Testimony in favor to the amendment:*

Brandee Bickle of the Georgia Credit Union Affiliates.

Julie McGhee Howard of the Nowack Howard Community Association Attorneys.

The Chair recognized Sen. Parent (42nd) who made a motion that **SB 178 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 48 0096S)**. Sen. Karinshak (48th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 3-1.

Sen. Parent (42nd), Sen. Rahman (5th), and Sen. Karinshak (48th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Harrell (40th) voted against the motion.

**Committee Recommendation: SB 178 DO PASS BY SUBSTUTE (LC 48 0096S)**

**HB 92** (Rep. Dale Rutledge, 109th, LC 28 9044ER) Georgia Municipal Courts Training Council; training hours completed by a municipal court judge in excess of those required may carry over to the following year; provide

The Chair recognized Rep. Rutledge (109th), who presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for debate.

The Chair recognized Sen. Karinshak (48th) who made a motion that **HB 92 DO PASS (LC 28 9044ER)**. Sen. Rahman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 92 DO PASS (LC 28 9044ER)**

Chairwoman Jordan (6th) adjourned the meeting at 6:24p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

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M. Mercedes Benites, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON SPECIAL JUDICIARY**  
**Tuesday, March 19, 2019**

The Senate Committee on Special Judiciary held a meeting on Tuesday, March 19, 2019, at 5:00 p.m. in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building (CLOB). The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Jennifer Jordan (6th), Chairwoman  
Sen. Donzella James (35th), Vice-Chairwoman (*Arrived Late*)  
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd), Secretary (*Arrived Late*) (*Left Early*)  
Sen. Tonya Anderson (43rd)  
Sen. Sally Harrell (40th) (*Left Early*)  
Sen. Harold Jones II (22nd), (Ex- Officio)  
Sen. Nikema Williams (39th)

**NOTE:** Sen. Zahra Karinshak (48th) and Sen. Sheikh Rahman (5th) were absent

**NOTE:** Sen. Harold Jones II (22nd) was appointed to the Senate Committee on Special Judiciary meeting, as an Ex-Officio member, by the Committee on Assignments, for the meeting held on March 19, 2019. A copy of the letter of appointment is attached.

Chairwoman Jordan (6th) called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

**[HB 247](#) (Rep. Deborah Silcox, 52nd, LC 33 7866ERS) Crimes and offenses; battery against a person 65 years of age or older; repeal an enhanced penalty**

The Chair recognized Rep. Silcox (52nd), who presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair proposed an amendment for the purpose of aligning Georgia law with the Federal Law with respect of firearms and people that were convicted of domestic abuse. The amendment was inserted at the bottom of the bill.

Sen. Jones (22nd) made a motion to adopt the proposed amendment to HB 247. Sen. Harrell (40th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, by a vote of 4-0.

**NOTE:** Sen. Parent (42nd) arrived at 5:10 p.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Jones (22nd) who made a motion that **HB 247 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 48 0120ERS)**. Sen. Harrell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, by a vote of 5-0.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 247 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 48 0120ERS)**

**NOTE:** Sen. Harrell (40th) left at 5:11 p.m.

**[HB 502](#) (Rep. Andy Welch, 10th, LC 34 5528) Civil practice; continuances for members of the Board of Regents and the Attorney General; revise**

The Chair recognized Rep. Welch (10th), who presented the bill and a proposed substitute to the committee.

The Chair opened the floor for questions and for public statements

*Testimony in favor to the bill:*

Edward Lindsey a partner of Dentons' Public Policy.

Ronnie Mabra of the Mabra Law Firm.

Rep. Bob Trammell (132nd) of the Georgia House of Representatives.

**NOTE:** Sen. James (35th) arrived at 5:20 p.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Parent (42nd) who made a motion that **HB 502 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 41 1973S)**. Sen. Jones (22nd) seconded the motion. The bill passed unanimously, by a vote of 5-0.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 502 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 41 1973S)**

**[HB 492](#) (Rep. Bonnie Rich, 97th, LC 41 1911S) Property; dispossessory proceedings; require applications for execution of a writ of possession be made within 30 days of issuance of the writ unless good cause is shown**

**NOTE:** Sen. Anderson (43rd) left at 5:22p.m.

The Chair recognized Rep. Rich (97th), who presented the bill and a proposed substitute to the committee.

The Chair opened the floor for questions.

The Chair recognized Sen. Parent (42nd) who made a motion that **HB 492 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 48 0117S)**. Sen. Jones (22nd) seconded the motion. The bill passed unanimously, by a vote of 4-0.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 492 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 48 0117S)**

**HB 134 (Rep. Rich, 97th, LC 28 9084) County law libraries; repeal a population provision regarding the disposition of law library funds in certain counties**

**NOTE:** Sen. Anderson (43rd) arrived at 5:25p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Parent (42nd) left at 5:25p.m.

The Chair recognized Rep. Rich (97th), who presented the bill to the committee.

The Chair opened the floor to debate.

The Chair recognized Sen. James (35th), who made a motion that **HB 134 Do Pass (LC 28 9084)**. Sen. Williams (39th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, by a vote of 4-0.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 134 DO PASS (LC 28 9084)**

**HB 257 (Rep. Mitchell Scoggins, 14th, LC 41 1782) Council of Magistrate Court Judges; organization and provide for officers; increase authority**

The Chair recognized Rep. Scoggins (14th), who presented the bill to the committee.

The Chair opened the floor for questions and public testimony.

*Testimony in favor to the bill:*

Betsey Kidwell a Magistrate Judge in Heard County

The Chair recognized Sen. Anderson (43rd), who made a motion that **HB 257 Do Pass (LC 41 1782)**. Sen. James (35th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, by a vote of 4-0.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 257 DO PASS (LC 41 1782)**

Chairwoman Jordan (6th) adjourned the meeting at 5:31p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Jen Jordan (6th), Chairwoman

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M. Mercedes Benites, Recording Secretary

**OFFICE OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR**

240 STATE CAPITOL

ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334

GEOFF DUNCAN

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

March 19, 2019

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

Dear Mr. Cook,

In accordance with the Senate Rules, and in agreement with the Senate Committee on Assignments, I hereby appoint Senator Harold Jones to serve as Ex-Officio for the Special Judiciary meeting on March 19, 2019. This appointment shall expire upon adjournment of the committee meeting.

Sincerely,

/s/ Geoff Duncan  
Lieutenant Governor Georgia