

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS
MEMBERS**

2019 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Sen. Greg Kirk, Chairman
District 13
P.O. Box 6085
Americus, GA 31709

Sen. Chuck Payne, Vice-Chairman
District 54
305 Point North Place, Suite 4
Dalton, GA 30720

Sen. Gloria Butler, Secretary
District 55
6241 Southland Trace
Stone Mountain, GA 30087

Sen. Randy Robertson
District 29
P.O. Box 62
Cataula, GA 31804

Sen. Brian Strickland, Ex-Officio
District 17
P.O. Box 1895
McDonough, GA 30253

Sen. Horacena Tate
District 38
121-A State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334

Sen. Nikema Williams
District 39
P.O. Box 92386
Atlanta, GA 30314

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on State and Local Governmental Operations
Tuesday, February 5, 2019**

The Senate Committee on State and Local Governmental Operations met on Tuesday, February 5, 2019 at 2:00 p.m. in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building. The following Committee members were in attendance:

Sen. Greg Kirk (13th), Chairman
Sen. Chuck Payne (54th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Randy Robertson (29th)
Sen. Nikema Williams (39th)

NOTE: Sen. Gloria Butler (55th), Secretary, Sen. Brian Strickland (17th), Ex-Officio, and Sen. Horacena Tate (38th) were absent.

Chairman Kirk (13th) called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m.

The proposed Committee Rules were reviewed. Sen. Williams (39th) offered a friendly amendment to strike the word “not” from #10 on the Rules. Sen. Williams (39th) made a motion to adopt the Rules. Sen. Payne (54th) seconded the motion. The Rules of the Committee were adopted and appear on the following page.

Chairman Kirk (13th) adjourned the meeting at 2:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Greg Kirk (13th), Chairman

/s/ Abby Horvath, Recording Secretary

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON
STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS
2019 RULES**

1. Quorum of the Committee shall be four (4) members.
2. The Chairman shall determine which cases or investigations shall be heard and the order in which said hearings are to commence.
3. The Committee will not hear a bill unless the Chairman receives a written request for a hearing from the author of the bill.
4. The Chairman shall have the authority to refer cases or investigations to subcommittee for study. Such subcommittees, in turn, shall have the authority to make recommendations on such cases to the full Committee.
5. The Committee shall convene, recess, put forward questions and adjourn upon order of the Chairman, subject to the Rules of the Senate.
6. Any member or members of the Committee who disagree with the majority report of the Committee shall be privileged to file a minority report.
7. If a Committee member moves on a House bill without a Senate sponsor, that Committee member becomes the sponsor of the bill.
8. After adoption, these Rules may be amended upon motion duly made, seconded, and subsequently approved by a two-thirds vote of the members of the Committee.
9. The Secretary of the Committee shall distribute a copy of these Rules to all members of the Senate Committee on Government Oversight.
10. A local bill that creates a city or municipality must be introduced in the first year of the biennium. A bill that is introduced in accordance with this Rule may be heard in the first year of the biennium, but will be held over until the second year of the biennium, at which time it may be considered for recommendation to the full Senate. The Committee may take any action on a bill creating a city or municipality that is introduced in the second year of the biennium at the discretion of the Chairman.
11. Where these Rules are silent on a specific issue, the Rules of the Senate, as adopted, shall govern.

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on State and Local Governmental Operations
Thursday, February 28, 2019**

The Senate Committee on State and Local Governmental Operations met on Thursday, February 28, 2019 at 2:00 p.m. in Room 450 of the Capitol. The following Committee members were in attendance:

Sen. Greg Kirk (13th), Chairman
Sen. Chuck Payne (54th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Gloria Butler (55th), Secretary
Sen. Randy Robertson (29th)
Sen. Horacena Tate (38th)
Sen. Nikema Williams (39th)

NOTE: Sen. Brian Strickland (17th), Ex-Officio, was absent.

Chairman Kirk (13th) called the meeting to order at 2:09 p.m.

SB 171 (Sen. Wilkinson, 50th, LC 45 0261S) "Courts, Primaries and Elections, and Ad Valorem Taxation; compensation of various local government officials; modify"

The Chair recognized Sen. John Wilkinson (50th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Wilkinson (50th) presented the bill.

Sen. Gloria Butler (55th) asked Sen. Wilkinson (50th) a question about the difference between the original bill and substitute. Matt Ralston from Troutman Sanders Strategies assisted Sen. Wilkinson (50th) in explaining the difference.

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

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:

Todd Edwards- Association County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG)
Shannon Whitfield- Sole Commissioner of Walker County

Testimony in favor of the Bill:

Tim Harper- Superior Court Clerk from Banks County
Missy Tolbert- Director of Executive COAG
Sarah Harris- Council of Probate Court Judges from Bibb County

The chair recognized Sen. Robertson (29th) who made a motion **SB 171 Do Pass by Committee Substitute**. Sen. Butler (55th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 3-2.

Committee Recommendation: SB 171 DO PASS BY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE (LC 45 0261S)

Chairman Kirk (13th) adjourned the meeting at 2:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Gloria Butler (55th), Secretary

/s/ Abby Horvath, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on State and Local Governmental Operations
Tuesday, March 19, 2019**

The Senate Committee on State and Local Governmental Operations met on Tuesday, March 19, 2019 at 2:00 p.m. in Senate Mezz. The following Committee members were in attendance:

Sen. Greg Kirk (13th), Chairman
Sen. Gloria Butler (55th), Secretary
Sen. Randy Robertson (29th)
Sen. Brian Strickland (17th), Ex-Officio (Arrived Late)

NOTE: Sen. Chuck Payne (54th), Vice-Chairman, Sen. Horacena Tate (38th), and Sen. Nikema Williams (39th) were absent.

Chairman Kirk (13th) called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m.

SB 240 (Sen. Mullis, 53rd, LC 47 0133ER) "Incorporation of Municipal Corporations; no municipal charter shall be enacted where a portion of the proposed corporate boundary was ever part of existing municipality; provide"

The Chair stated that SB 240 would receive a hearing only.

The Chair recognized Sen. Mullis (53rd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Mullis (53rd) 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:
Mayor Anthony Ford of Stockbridge, GA

Committee Recommendation: SB 240 (LC 47 0133ER) No action was taken.

HB 322 (Rep. McCall, 33rd, LC 36 3786ER) "Local government; advertisement of certain bid or proposal opportunities; change provisions"

The Chair recognized Rep. Tom McCall (33rd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. McCall (33rd) presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Strickland (17th), Ex-Officio, arrived at 2:11 p.m.

Sen. Gloria Butler (55th) asked Rep. McCall (33rd) a question about what the bill does on line 72. Clint Mueller with ACCG assisted Rep. McCall (33rd) in explaining the question.

The Chair recognized Sen. Robertson (29th), who made a motion that **HB 322 Do Pass (LC 36 3786ER)**. Sen. Strickland (17th), Ex-Officio, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: HB 322 DO PASS (LC 36 3786ER)

HB 349 (Rep. Martin, 49th, LC 44 1161ERS) “Local Government; counties to exercise powers incorporated; authorize”

The Chair recognized Rep. Chuck Martin (49th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Martin (49th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair recognized Sen. Strickland (17th), Ex-Officio, who made a motion that **HB 349 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 44 1161ERS)**. Sen. Butler (55th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: HB 349 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 44 1161ERS)

Chairman Kirk (13th) adjourned the meeting at 2:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Gloria Butler (55th), Secretary

/s/ Abby Horvath, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on State and Local Governmental Operations
Friday, March 29, 2019**

The Senate Committee on State and Local Governmental Operations met on Friday, March 29, 2019 at 4:45 p.m. in Senate Mezz. The following Committee members were in attendance:

Sen. Greg Kirk (13th), Chairman
Sen. Chuck Payne (54th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Gloria Butler (55th), Secretary (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Randy Robertson (29th)
Sen. Brian Strickland (17th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Horacena Tate (38th)
Sen. Nikema Williams (39th)

Chairman Kirk (13th) called the meeting to order at 4:46 p.m.

HB 665 (Rep. Knight, 120th, LC 44 1139) “Locust Grove, City of; dissolution and reactivation of districts under certain conditions; provide”

The Chair recognized Sen. Strickland (17th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Strickland (17th) presented the bill to the Committee.

Sen. Strickland (17th) requested that the bill be placed on the local consent calendar without his signature.

The Chair recognized Sen. Williams (39th), who made a motion that **HB 665 Do Pass (LC 44 1139)**. Sen. Robertson (29th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: HB 665 DO PASS (LC 44 1139)

NOTE: Sen. Butler (55th) arrived at 4:52 p.m.

HB 685 (Rep. Bentley, 139th, LC 45 0324ERS) “Fort Valley Utility Commission; provide for establishment and powers”

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

Sen. Kennedy (18th) spoke about a change in his substitute on line 107 that would change a word in the substitute from shall to may. The current substitute has: “The City may assist the commission in any such condemnation proceedings....” The change Sen. Kennedy (18th) wants to make is “The City shall assist the commission in any condemnation proceedings...”

The Chair recognized Sen. Payne (54th), who made a motion that **HB 685 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 45 0324ERS)**. Sen. Tate (38th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: HB 685 DO PASS BY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE (LC 45 0324ERS)

Chairman Kirk (13th) adjourned the meeting at 4:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Gloria Butler (55th), Secretary

/s/ Abby Horvath, Recording Secretary