

SENATE GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

2019-2020 MEMBERS

Sen. Bill Heath, Chairman

District 31
2225 Cashtown Road
Bremen, GA 30110

Sen. Sheikh Rahman

District 5
779 Simon Way
Lawrenceville, GA 30045

Sen. Marty Harbin, Vice-Chairman

District 16
215 Greencastle Road
Tyrone, GA 30290

Sen. Randy Robertson, Ex-Officio

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

Sen. Elena Parent, Secretary

District 42
956 Springdale Rd. NE
Atlanta, GA 30306

Sen. Valencia Seay

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

Sen. Greg Dolezal

District 27
5255 Harris Springs Dr.
Cumming, GA 30040

Sen. Steve Gooch, Ex-Officio

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

Sen. Tyler Harper, Ex-Officio

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

Sen. Jennifer Jordan

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

Sen. Butch Miller, Ex-Officio

District 49
2420 Brown Bridge Road
Gainesville, GA 30504

RULES

Senate Government Oversight Committee

2019 – 2020 Legislative Session

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

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Government Oversight

Thursday, January 30, 2020

The Senate Committee on Government Oversight met on Thursday, January 30, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. in Room 125 of the State Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

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

NOTE: Sen. Steve Gooch (51st) was absent.

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

[SB 317](#) (Sen. Ligon, 3rd, LC 28 9539) County Police; method for the abolition of a county police department and returning the law enforcement functions of such department to the sheriff of county; provide

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

NOTE: Sen. Jordan (6th) arrived at 1:01 p.m. Sen. Seay (34th) arrived at 1:02 p.m. Sen. Harper (7th) arrived at 1:04 p.m.

The Chair opened the floor for debate.

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

Testimony in favor of the Bill:

None

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:

Mike Browning Glynn County Chairman, Board of Commissioners
Clint Mueller, Association County Commissioners of Georgia

The Chair recognized Sen. Robertson (29th) who made a motion that **SB 317 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 28 9555S)**. Sen. Miller (49th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 5-4.

Sen. Dolezal (27th), Sen. Harbin (16th), Sen. Harper (7th), Sen. Miller (49th), and Sen. Robertson (29th) voted in favor the motion.

Sen. Jordan (6th), Sen. Parent (42nd), Sen. Rahman (5th), Sen. Seay (34th), voted against the motion.

Committee Recommendation: SB 317 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 28 9555S)

Chairman Heath (31st) adjourned the meeting at 2:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Abigail Conrad, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Government Oversight

Thursday, February 20, 2020

The Senate Committee on Government Oversight met on Thursday, February 20, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. in Room 125 of the State Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

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

NOTE: Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Sen. Tyler Harper (7th), Sen. Jordan (6th), Sen. Butch Miller(49th), and Sen. Elena Parent (42nd) were absent.

Chairman Heath (31st) convened the meeting at 1:01 p.m.

SB 351 (Sen. Watson, 1st, LC 46 0241) Secretary of State; nonbinding, advisory referendum election; continue the advancement of time from standard time to daylight saving time; provide

The Chair recognized Sen. Ben Watson (1st) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Watson (1st) presented the bill to the committee.

NOTE: Sen. Rahman (5th) arrived at 1:03 p.m.

The Chair opened the floor for debate.

The Chair recognized Sen. Robertson (29th) who made a motion that **SB 351 Do Pass (LC 46 02419)**. Sen. Dolezal (27th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SB 351 DO PASS (LC 46 0241)

Chairman Heath (31st) adjourned the meeting at 1:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Bill Heath (31st), Chairman

/s/ Abigail Conrad, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Government Oversight

Thursday, March 5, 2020

The Senate Committee on Government Oversight met on Thursday, March 5, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. in Room 125 of the State Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Bill Heath (31st), Chairman
Sen. Marty Harbin (16th), Vice-Chairman (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th)
Sen. Sheikh Rahman (5th)
Sen. Randy Robertson (29th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Jen Jordan (6th) (*Arrived Late*)

NOTE: Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Sen. Tyler Harper (7th), Sen. Butch Miller (49th), Sen. Elena Parent (42nd), Sen. Valenica Seay (34th) were absent.

Chairman Heath (31st) convened the meeting at 2:03 p.m.

SR 818 (Sen. Dolezal, 27th, LC 28 9429) **Right to Register and Vote; only citizens of the United States shall have a right to vote in elections; clarify- CA**

The Chair recognized Sen. Dolezal (27th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Dolezal (27th) presented the bill to the committee.

NOTE: Sen. Jordan (6th) arrived at 2:03 p.m. Sen. Harbin (16th) arrived at 2:06 p.m.

The Chair opened the floor for debate.

The Chair recognized Sen. Robertson (29th) who made a motion that **SR 818 Do Pass (LC 28 9429)**. Sen. Harbin (16th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SR 818 DO PASS (LC 28 9429)

Chairman Heath (31st) adjourned the meeting at 2:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Bill Heath (31st), Chairman

/s/ Abigail Conrad, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Government Oversight

Thursday, June 18, 2020

The Senate Committee on Government Oversight met on Thursday, June 18, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. in the Senate Mezzanine of the Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

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

NOTE: Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th) was absent.

Chairman Heath (31st) convened the meeting at 2:08 p.m.

[HR 1300](#) (Rep. Pirkle, 155th, LC 50 0065) Glynn County; Murray County; change of use of certain property; authorize

The Chair recognized Sen. Blake Tillery (19th) for the purpose of presenting the proposed substitute. Sen. Tillery (19th) presented the proposed sub to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for debate.

The Chair recognized Rep. Clay Pirkle (155th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Pirkle (155th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for debate.

The Chair recognized Sen. Harper (7th) who made a motion that **HR 1300 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 50 0116S)**. Sen. Miller (49th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: HR 1300 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 50 0116S)

HB 780 (Rep. Pirkle, 155th, LC 50 0013) State Properties Commission; use an opinion of value in the valuation of state property where a conveyance of the property by the state is for the sole and direct benefit to the state; allow

The Chair recognized Rep. Pirkle (155th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Pirkle (155th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for debate.

The Chair recognized Sen. Harper (7th) who made a motion that **HB 780 Do Pass (LC 50 0113)**. Sen. Seay (34th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: HB 780 DO PASS (LC 50 0113)

HB 1122 (Rep. Watson, 172nd, LC 47 0506S) Regional commissions; appointment of nonpublic members to the councils; revise provisions

The Chair recognized Rep. Sam Watson (172nd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Watson (172nd) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for debate.

NOTE: Sen. Gooch (51st) arrived at 2:27 p.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Harper (7th) who made a motion that **SB 351 Do Pass (LC 46 02419)**. Sen. Robertson (29th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: HB 1122 DO PASS (LC 47 0506S)

HR 1167 (Rep. Greene, 151st, LC 50 0078S) Property; conveyance of certain state owned real property; authorize

The Chair recognized Rep. Gerald Greene (151st) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Greene (151st) presented the bill to the committee.

The Chair opened the floor for debate.

Deputy Executive Director, Frank Smith was asked to speak by Chairman Heath (31st) and he answered questions from the committee members.

After discussion, the bill was tabled by Chairman Heath.

Committee Recommendation: HR 1167 (LC 50 0078S) No action was taken.

HR 1094 (Rep. Greene, 151st, LC 50 0077S) Property; granting of non-exclusive easements; authorize

The Chair recognized Rep. Greene (151st) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Greene (151st) 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:

Jeff Breedlove, Home Builders Association of Georgia

Sen. Jesse Stone, Chairman of Senate Judiciary Committee

Rep. Jodi Lott

Sen. Lee Anderson, Chairman of Senate State and Local Governmental Operations Committee

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:

Sen. Harold V. Jones II, Senate Minority Whip

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Gooch (51st) who made a motion that **HR 1167 Do Pass (LC 50 0077S)**. Sen. Robertson (29th) seconded the motion.

The Chair then recognized Sen. Parent (42nd) who made a motion to amend the bill by eliminating Article 15 and striking lines 1247-1329 of the bill. Sen. Seay (34th) seconded the motion. The motion failed by a vote of 4-5.

Sen. Jordan (6th), Sen. Parent (42nd), Sen. Rahman (5th), Sen. Seay (34th), voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Gooch (51st), Sen. Harbin (16th), Sen. Harper (7th), Sen. Miller (49th), and Sen. Robertson (29th) voted against the motion.

The Chair indicated that he would like to return to the original motion **HR 1167 Do Pass (LC 50 0077S)**. The motion passed by a vote of 5-4.

Sen. Gooch (51st), Sen. Harbin (16th), Sen. Harper (7th), Sen. Miller (49th), and Sen. Robertson (29th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Jordan (6th), Sen. Parent (42nd), Sen. Rahman (5th), Sen. Seay (34th), voted against the motion.

Committee Recommendation: HR 1094 DO PASS (LC 50 0077S)

Chairman Heath (31st) adjourned the meeting at 3:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Abigail Conrad, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Government Oversight

Friday, June 19, 2020

The Senate Committee on Government Oversight met on Friday, June 19, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. in the Room 450 of the State Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Bill Heath (31st), Chairman
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd), Secretary
Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Ex-Officio
Sen. Tyler Harper (7th)
Sen. Jennifer Jordan (6th)
Sen. Butch Miller (49th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Sheikh Rahman (5th)

NOTE: Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th), Sen. Marty Harbin (16th), Sen. Randy Robertson (29th), and Sen. Valencia Seay (34th), were absent.

Chairman Heath (31st) convened the meeting at 3:09 p.m.

HR 1167 (Greene, 151st LC 50 0078S) Property; conveyance of certain state owned real property; authorize

Chairman Heath called HR1167 up for discussion.

The Chair recognized Sen. Miller (49th) who made a motion that **HR 1167 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 50 0100S)**. Sen. Gooch (51st) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: HR 1167 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 50 0100S)

Chairman Heath (31st) adjourned the meeting at 3:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Abigail Conrad, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Government Oversight
Thursday, December 3, 2020**

The Senate Committee on Government Oversight met on Thursday, December 3, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. in the Room 450 of the Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

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

Chairman Heath (31st) convened the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

NOTE: Sen. Rahman (6th) arrived at 9:46 a.m.

The Chair made introductory comments and stated that he personally had invited elections officials from Fulton, DeKalb, and Muscogee Counties to testify.

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

Secretary of State's Office:
Gabriel Sterling, Director of Implementation
Ryan Germany, General Counsel
Chris Harvey, Elections Director

Fulton County:
Jessica Corbitt- Dominguez, Director of External Affairs
Richard Anderson, County Manager
Robb Pitts, Chairman of Fulton County Board of Commissioners

Members of the public were allowed to submit sworn affidavits which were collected, kept confidential, and forwarded to the Office of the Secretary of State.

Chairman Heath (31st) adjourned the meeting 12:27 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Abigail Conrad, Recording Secretary