

**THE SENATE REGULATED INDUSTRIES & UTILITIES COMMITTEE
2020 ROSTER**

Senator Bill Cowsert, Chairman

District 46
P.O. Box 512
Athens, GA 30603

Senator Matt Brass, Vice-Chairman

District 28
P.O. Box 1313
Newnan, GA 30264

Senator John F. Kennedy, Secretary

District 18
231 Riverside Drive
Macon, GA 31201

Senator Ed Harbison, Ex-Officio

District 15
P.O. Box 1292
Columbus, GA 31902

Senator P.K. Martin, Ex-Officio

District 09
324-B CLOB
Atlanta, GA 30034

Senator Lindsey Tippins, Ex-Officio

District 37
139 Midway Road
Marietta, GA 30064

Senator John Albers

District 56
101 Vickery Street
Roswell, GA 30075

Senator Frank Ginn

District 47
P.O. Box 1136
Danielsville, GA 30633

Senator Steve Gooch

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

Senator Steve Henson

District 41
5404 Pheasant Run
Stone Mountain, GA 30087

Senator Jack Hill *(until April 7, 2020)*

District 4
P.O. Box 486
Reidsville, GA 30453

Senator David Lucas

District 26
2594 Saratoga Drive
Macon, GA 31211

Senator Butch Miller

District 49
2420 Browns Bridge Road
Gainesville, GA 30504

Senator Jeff Mullis

District 53
212 English Avenue
Chickamauga, GA 30707

**THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON REGULATED INDUSTRIES AND UTILITIES
2019-2020 RULES**

1. Quorum of the Committee shall be six (6) members.
2. The Chair shall determine which bills, resolutions, substitutes or amendments are to be considered and the order in which said measures are considered.
3. The Chair shall appoint Subcommittees as needed with their appropriate Subcommittee chairs. The Chair 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 times as shall be designated by the Chairman.
4. The Committee shall convene, recess, put all questions, and adjourn upon the order of the Chair.
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. A bill, resolution, or other matter will be considered only after a presentation by its principal author or a legislator whom he or the Chairman designates to do so. In the event more than one member of the General Assembly has signed a measure, the principal author shall be the one whose name appears first in the list of authors.
7. Substitutes and amendments shall be provided to the Chairman in writing at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the hearing. The Chairman reserves the right to delay or decline action on any substitute or amendment not provided in advance.
8. 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.
9. Where these Rules are silent on a specific issue, the Rules of the Senate, as adopted, shall govern.
10. These Rules may be amended upon a motion duly made and subsequently approved by two-thirds of the members of the Committee.

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Regulated Industries and Utilities
Tuesday, January 28, 2020**

The Senate Committee on Regulated Industries and Utilities met on Tuesday, January 28, 2020 at 2:00p.m. in Room 450 of the Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Chairman
Sen. Matt Brass (28th), Vice Chairman (*left early*)
Sen. John F. Kennedy (18th), Secretary(*left early*)
Sen. John Albers (56th) (*left early*)
Sen. Frank Ginn (47th) (*left early*)
Sen. Ed Harbison (15th) (Ex-Officio) (*arrived late*) (*left early*)
Sen. Jack Hill (4th) (*arrived late*) (*left early*)
Sen. David Lucas (26th) (*left early*)
Sen. P.K. Martin (9th) (Ex-Officio) (*arrived late*)
Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd) (*left early*)
Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th) (*Ex-Officio*) (*left early*)

NOTE: Sen. Henson (41st), Sen. Gooch (51st), and Sen. Miller (49th) were absent.

Chairman Cowsert (46th) called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Harbison (15th), Sen. Hill (4th), and Sen. Martin (9th) arrived at 2:05 p.m.

SB 296 (Sen. Heath, 31st, LC 36 4068) Funeral Directors and Embalmers; alternative cremation process; provide

The Chair recognized Sen. Bill Heath (31st) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Heath (31st) 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:

Bill Hightower – Hightower Funeral Home
Jaqueline Echols - South River Watershed Alliance

NOTE: Sen. Kennedy left early at 2:35 p.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Ginn (47th) who made a motion that **SB 296 Do Pass (LC 36 4068)**. Sen. Albers (56th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 9-0.

Committee Recommendation: SB 296 DO PASS (LC 36 4068).

SB 298 (Sen. Unterman, 45th, LC 36 4100) Crimes and Offenses and Education; protections for and education to minors regarding smoking and vaping; provide

The Chair recognized Sen. Renee Unterman (45th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Unterman (45th) presented the bill to the committee.

NOTE: Sen. Martin (9th) left early at 2:42 p.m.

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

Testimony in favor of the Bill:

Daniel Park – Sugar Hill Youth Council

Ebonee Shaw – Student

Juan Brego, Marco Brego – Students

Dr. Monica Newton – NEGA Medical Center, Gainesville

Dr. Justine Henao, M.D. – Northside Hospital

Amy Sedgwick – Mother

Fay Fulton – American Academy of Family Physicians

Laura Martinez – Nurse

Dana Hickman – Nurse

NOTE: Sen. Ginn (47th) left early at 2:49 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Albers (56th) and Sen. Mullis (53rd) left early at 2:51 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Martin (9th) and Sen. Mullis (53rd) returned at 2:54 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Tippins (37th) left early at 2:57 p.m.

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

NOTE: Sen. Mullis (53rd) left early at 3:15 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Brass (28th) and Sen. Harbison (15th) left at 3:24 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Lucas (26th) left early at 3:34 p.m.

Committee Recommendation: SB 298 (LC 36 4100) No action was taken.

Chairman Cowsert (46th) adjourned the meeting at 3:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Chairman

/s/ Samantha Nix, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Regulated Industries and Utilities
Thursday, January 30, 2020**

The Senate Committee on Regulated Industries and Utilities met on Thursday, January 30, 2020 at 3:00p.m. In Room 450 of the Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Chairman
Sen. Matt Brass (28th), Vice Chairman
Sen. John F. Kennedy (18th), Secretary
Sen. John Albers (56th) (*left early*)
Sen. Frank Ginn (47th)
Sen. Steve Gooch (51st)
Sen. Ed Harbison (15th) (Ex-Officio)
Sen. Steve Henson (41st)
Sen. Jack Hill (4th)
Sen. David Lucas (26th)
Sen. P.K. Martin (9th) (Ex-Officio) (*arrived late*)
Sen. Butch Miller (49th)
Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd)
Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th) (Ex-Officio)

Chairman Cowsert (46th) called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.m.

SB 298 (Sen. Unterman, 45th, LC 36 4100) Crimes and Offenses and Education; protections for and education to minors regarding smoking and vaping; provide

The Chair recognized Sen. Renee Unterman (45th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Unterman (45th) presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Martin (9th) arrived late at 3:24 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Albers (56th) left at 3:25 p.m.

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

Testimony in favor of the Bill:

Sheila Hemberstone – Georgia Association of Convenience Stores
Jamila Pope – Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta
David Higginbotham – Smoke Free Atlanta
Amara Fazal, M.D. – American College of Physicians
June Dean – American Lung Association
Michael Cortez – American Heart Association
Emily Yona – Georgia Dental Association
Jill Travis – Georgia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers

NOTE: Sen. Gooch (51st) left at 3:09 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Gooch (51st) returned at 3:11 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Kennedy (18th) left at 3:48 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Kennedy (18th) returned at 3:51 p.m.

Committee Recommendation: SB 298 (LC 36 4100) No action was taken.

Chairman Cowsert (46th) adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. John F. Kennedy (18th), Secretary

/s/ Samantha Nix, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Regulated Industries & Utilities
Tuesday, February 4, 2020**

The Senate Committee on Regulated Industries and Utilities met on Tuesday, February 4, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. in Room 450 of the Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Chairman
Sen. Matt Brass (28th), Vice Chairman
Sen. John F. Kennedy (18th), Secretary (*arrived late*)
Sen. John Albers (56th) (*arrived late*)
Sen. Frank Ginn (47th) (*arrived late*) (*left early*)
Sen. Steve Gooch (51st)
Sen. Jack Hill (4th)
Sen. David Lucas (26th)
Sen. P.K. Martin (9th) (Ex-Officio) (*arrived late*)
Sen. Butch Miller (49th)
Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd) (*arrived late*)
Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th) (Ex-Officio)

NOTE: Sen. Harbison (15th) and Sen. Henson (41st) were absent.

Chairman Cowsert (46th) called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Ginn (47th) arrived late at 2:13 p.m.

SB 298 (Sen. Unterman, 45th, LC 36 4100) Crimes and Offenses and Education; protections for and education to minors regarding smoking and vaping; provide

The Chair recognized Sen. Renee Unterman (45th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Unterman (45th) presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Ginn (47th) left at 2:18 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Kennedy (18th) arrived late 2:19 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Martin (9th) arrived late at 2:23 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Albers (56th) arrived late at 2:26 p.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Brass (28th) who made a motion that **SB 298 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 36 4220S)**. Sen. Miller (49th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 9-0.

Committee Recommendation: SB 298 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 36 4220S)

SB 310 (Sen. Harper, 7th, LC 36 4117) Professions and businesses; profession of professional structural engineer; provide

The Chair recognized Sen. Tyler Harper (7th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Harper (7th) presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Mullis (53rd) arrived late at 2:32 p.m.

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

Testimony in favor of the Bill:

Ashley Jenkins – American Council of Engineering Companies of Georgia

Sully Sullivan – American Council of Engineering Companies of Georgia

Taylor Wright – Georgia Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors

Darien Sykes – Georgia Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors

Adrian Persaud – Uzant Case

The Chair recognized Sen. Albers (56th) who made a motion that **SB 310 Do Pass (LC 36 4190S)**. Sen. Martin (9th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 10-0.

Committee Recommendation: SB 310 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 36 4190S)

Chairman Cowsert (46th) adjourned the meeting at 2:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. John F. Kennedy (18th), Secretary

/s/ Samantha Nix, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Regulated Industries & Utilities
Thursday, February 6, 2020**

The Senate Committee on Regulated Industries and Utilities met on Thursday, February 6, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. in Room 450 of the Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Chairman
Sen. Matt Brass (28th), Vice Chairman
Sen. John F. Kennedy (18th), Secretary
Sen. John Albers (56th)
Sen. Frank Ginn (47th) (*arrived late*)
Sen. Steve Gooch (51st)
Sen. Ed Harbison (15th)
Sen. Jack Hill (4th) (*arrived late*)
Sen. David Lucas (26th) (*arrived late*)
Sen. P.K. Martin (9th) (Ex-Officio)
Sen. Butch Miller (49th) (*arrived late*)
Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th) (Ex-Officio)

NOTE: Sen. Henson (41st) and Sen. Mullis (53rd) was absent.

Chairman Cowsert (46th) called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m.

SB 355 (Sen. Beach, 21st, LC 36 4199) Professions and Businesses; certain boxing, wrestling, and martial art associations and federations; provisions; change

The Chair recognized Sen. Brandon Beach (21st) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Beach (21st) presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Hill (4th) and Sen. Lucas (26th) arrived at 2:07 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Ginn (47th) arrived at 2:09 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Miller (49th) arrived at 2:15 p.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Martin (9th) who made a motion **SB 355 Do Pass (LC 36 4199)**. Sen. Albers (56th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 10-0.

Committee Recommendation: SB 355 Do Pass (LC 36 4199)

Chairman Cowsert (46th) adjourned the meeting at 2:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. John F. Kennedy (18th), Secretary

/s/ Samantha Nix, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Regulated Industries & Utilities
Tuesday, February 18, 2020**

The Senate Committee on Regulated Industries and Utilities met on Tuesday, February 18, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. in Room 450 of the Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Chairman
Sen. Matt Brass (28th), Vice Chairman
Sen. John F. Kennedy (18th), Secretary
Sen. John Albers (56th) (*left early*)
Sen. Frank Ginn (47th)
Sen. Steve Gooch (51st)
Sen. Jack Hill (4th)
Sen. Ed Harbison (15th) (Ex-Officio) (*left early*)
Sen. Steve Henson (41st)
Sen. David Lucas (26th) (*arrived late*)
Sen. P.K. Martin (9th) (Ex-Officio) (*arrived late*)
Sen. Butch Miller (49th)
Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd) (*arrived late*) (*left early*)
Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th) (Ex-Officio) (*arrived late*)

Chairman Cowsert (46th) called the meeting to order at 2:06 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Tippins (37th) and Sen. Lucas (26th) arrived late at 2:08 p.m.

[SB 364](#) (Sen. Gooch, 51st, LC 36 4130) Public Utilities and Public Transportation; percentage limitation; amount of the investments an electric membership corporation may make in a gas affiliate; eliminate

The Chair stated that SB 364 would receive a hearing only.

The Chair recognized Sen. Gooch (51st) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Gooch (51st) presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Martin (9th) arrived late at 2:12 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Mullis (53rd) arrived late at 2:43 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Albers (56th) left at 2:57 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Mullis (53rd) left at 3:03 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Harbison (15th) left at 3:11 p.m.

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

Testimony in favor of the Bill:
Kevin Greiner – Gas South
Craig Dowdy – Gas South

Committee Recommendation: SB 364 (LC 36 4130) No action was taken.

Chairman Cowsert (46th) adjourned the meeting at 3:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. John F. Kennedy (18th), Secretary

/s/ Samantha Nix, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Regulated Industries & Utilities
Thursday, February 20, 2020**

The Senate Committee on Regulated Industries and Utilities met on Thursday, February 20, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. in Room 450 of the Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Chairman
Sen. Matt Brass (28th), Vice Chairman
Sen. John F. Kennedy (18th), Secretary (*left early*)
Sen. Frank Ginn (47th) (*left early*)
Sen. Steve Gooch (51st) (*left early*)
Sen. Jack Hill (4th)
Sen. P.K. Martin (9th) (Ex-Officio) (*left early*)
Sen. Butch Miller (49th)
Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd)
Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th) (Ex-Officio) (*left early*)

NOTE: Sen. Harbison (15th), Sen. Albers (56th), Sen. Henson (41st), and Sen. Lucas (26th) were absent.

Chairman Cowsert (46th) called the meeting to order at 3:08 p.m.

The Committee received a report on the mapping and expansion of broadband internet in Georgia.

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

Christopher Nunn
Michael Power – Georgia Cable
Andy Macke – Comcast
Jason Bragg – Georgia EMC
Wayne Livigsh – Diverse Power
Adam Wise – Rural Telephone Association

NOTE: Sen. Martin (9th) left at 3:15 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Martin (9th) returned at 3:18 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Brass (28th) left at 3:28 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Tippins (37th) left at 3:53 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Martin (9th) left at 3:57 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Kennedy (18th) left at 3:57 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Gooch (51st) and Sen. Ginn (47th) left at 4:10 p.m

NOTE: Sen. Brass (28th) returned at 4:20 p.m.

Chairman Cowsert (46th) adjourned the meeting at 4:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. John F. Kennedy (18th), Secretary

/s/ Samantha Nix, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Regulated Industries & Utilities
Tuesday, February 25, 2020**

The Senate Committee on Regulated Industries and Utilities met on Tuesday, February 25, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. in Room 450 of the Capitol. The following members were in attendance:

Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Chairman
Sen. Matt Brass (28th), Vice Chairman (*left early*)
Sen. John F. Kennedy (18th), Secretary (*left early*)
Sen. John Albers (56th) (*left early*)
Sen. Frank Ginn (47th) (*left early*)
Sen. Steve Gooch (51st)
Sen. David Lucas (26th)
Sen. P.K. Martin (9th) (Ex-Officio) (*arrived late*) (*left early*)
Sen. Butch Miller (49th) (*left early*)
Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd) (*left early*)
Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th) (Ex-Officio) (*left early*)

NOTE: Sen. Harbison (15th), Sen. Henson (41st), and Sen. Hill (4th) were absent.

Chairman Cowsert (46th) called the meeting to order at 2:06 p.m.

SB 375 (Sen. Mullis, 53rd, LC 48 0167) Cigarettes and Tobacco Related products; additional penalties regarding any person under 21 years of age; provide; definition of vapor product; revise

The Chair stated that SB 375 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.

NOTE: Sen. Martin (9th) arrived at 2:17 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Kennedy (18th) left at 2:30 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Kennedy (18th) returned at 2:31 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Lucas (26th) left at 2:32 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Lucas (26th) returned at 2:35 p.m.

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

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Lee Hughes – American Heart Association

Fay Fulton – Georgia Academy of Family Physicians

Angela Holland – Georgia Association of Convenience Stores
Andy Freeman – American Cancer Society
June Dean – American Lung Association

Committee Recommendation: SB 375 (LC 48 0167) No action was taken.

SB 379 (Sen. Stone, 23, LC 36 4233) Barbers and Cosmetologists; certain provisions; change

The Chair stated that SB 379 would receive a hearing only.

The Chair recognized Sen. Jesse Stone (23rd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Stone (23rd) presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Albers (56th) left at 2:41 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Albers (56th) returned at 2:45 p.m.

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

Neutral testimony on the bill:

Kay Kendrick – Georgia State Board of Cosmetology

NOTE: Sen. Kennedy (18th) left at 2:57 p.m.

Committee Recommendation: SB 379 (LC 36 4233) No action was taken.

SB 385 (Sen. Wilkinson, 50, LC 45 0382) Prevention and Control of Air Pollution; burning of certain chemically treated wood products for purposes of commercial energy generation; prohibit

The Chair stated SB 385 would receive a hearing only.

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

NOTE: Sen. Mullis (53rd) left early at 3:03 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Albers (56th) and Sen. Tippins (37th) left early at 3:15 p.m.

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

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Neil Herring – Sierra Club

Leanne Jones – Madison Co. Resident

Sheryl Adams – Madison Co. Resident

June Dean – American Lung Association

Testimony in opposition to the bill:

Craig Camuso – CSX Railroads

Terri Lyndall – Georgia Renewable Power

NOTE: Sen. Kennedy (18th) returned at 3:26 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Kennedy (18th) left at 3:28 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Martin (9th) and Sen. Miller (49th) left at 3:33 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Ginn (47th) left at 3:38 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Brass (28th) left at 3:46 p.m.

Committee Recommendation: SB 385 (LC 45 0382) No action was taken.

Chairman Cowsert (46th) adjourned the meeting at 4:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Chairman

/s/ Samantha Nix, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Regulated Industries & Utilities
Thursday, February 27, 2020

The Senate Committee on Regulated Industries and Utilities met on Thursday, February 27, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. in room 450 of the Capitol. The following Committee members were in attendance:

Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Chairman
Sen. Matt Brass (28th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. John F. Kennedy (18th), Secretary
Sen. John Albers (56th) (*left early*)
Sen. Frank Ginn (47th) (*left early*)
Sen. Ed Harbison (15th) (Ex-Officio)
Sen. Steven Henson (41st)
Sen. David Lucas (26th)
Sen. P.K. Martin (9th) (Ex-Officio) (*left early*)
Sen. Butch Miller (49th)
Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd) (*arrived late*) (*left early*)

NOTE: Sen. Gooch (51st), Sen. Hill (4th), and Sen. Tippins (37th) was absent.

Chairman Cowsert (46th) called the meeting to order at 3:11 p.m.

SB 385 (Sen. Wilkinson, 50th, LC 45 0382) Prevention and Control of Air Pollution; burning of certain chemically treated wood products for purposes of commercial energy generation; prohibit

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

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

Testimony in opposition of the bill:
Derrick Harvey – Georgia Renewable Power
David Grougs – Veolia
Emily Ham – Westrock
Greg Baumann – Nisus Corporation

NOTE: Sen. Mullis (53rd) arrived at 3:21 p.m.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Gooch (51st) who offered amendment (**AM 36 0772**). Sen. Albers (56th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 11-0.

The Chair indicated his preference that the adopted amendment be incorporated into a perfected Committee Substitute.

The Chair recognized Sen. Henson (41st) who made a motion **Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Brass (28th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 10-1.

Sen. Albers (56th), Sen. Brass (28th), Sen. Ginn (47th), Sen. Gooch (51st), Sen. Harbison (15th), Sen. Henson (41st), Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Lucas (26th), Sen. Martin (9th), and Sen. Miller (49th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Mullis (53rd) voted against the motion.

Committee Recommendation: SB 385 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 36 4334S)

NOTE: Sen. Albers (56th) left at 3:43 p.m.

SB 397 (Sen. Walker, 20th, LC 36 4229) Bona Fide Coin Operated Amusement Machines; number that may be prohibited in local ordinance; change.

The Chair stated that SB 397 would receive a hearing only.

NOTE: Sen. Martin (9th) left at 3:44 p.m.

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

NOTE: Sen. Albers (56th) returned at 3:46 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Albers (56th) left at 3:54 p.m.

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

Testimony in opposition to the bill:

Edward Lindsey – Dentons

Committee Recommendation: SB 397 (LC 36 4229) No action was taken.

HB 337 (Rep. Blackmon, 146, LC 36 3937ERS) Georgia Peer-to-Peer Car-Sharing Program; enact

The Chair recognized Representative Shaw Blackmon (146th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Blackmon (146th) presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Mullis (53rd) left at 4:20 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Ginn (47th) left at 4:29 p.m.

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

Testimony in favor on the bill:

Ben Jordan – Georgia Automobile Dealers Association

Neutral Testimony for the bill:

Emily Bagwell – Allstate

The Chair recognized Sen. Ginn (47th) who offered an amendment (**AM 36 0767**) that defines a **used vehicle** and moved its adoption. Sen. Harbison (15th) seconded the motion. The motion was passed by a vote of 7-0.

The Chair recognized Sen. Ginn who offered an amendment (**AM 36 0771**) defines parameters for providing hardware or software for the use of shared vehicles . Sen. Henson (41st) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 5-2.

Sen. Ginn (47th), Sen. Harbison (15th), Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Lucas (26th), and Sen. Miller (49th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Brass (28th) and Sen. Henson (41st) voted against the motion.

The Chair indicated his preference that the adopted amendment be incorporated into a perfected Committee Substitute.

The Chair recognized Sen. Brass (28th) who made a motion **HB 337 Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Lucas (26th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0.

Committee Recommendation: HB 337 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 36 4312S)

Chairman Cowsert (46th) adjourned the meeting at 4:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. John F. Kennedy (18th), Secretary

/s/ Samantha Nix, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Regulated Industries & Utilities
Tuesday, March 3, 2020**

The Senate Committee on Regulated Industries and Utilities met on Tuesday, March 3, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. in Room 450 of the Capitol. The following Committee members were in attendance:

Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Chairman
Sen. Matt Brass (28th), Vice Chairman (*arrived late*) (*left early*)
Sen. John F. Kennedy (18th), Secretary (*arrived late*) (*left early*)
Sen. John Albers (56th) (*left early*)
Sen. Frank Ginn (47th) (*left early*)
Sen. Steve Gooch (51st) (*arrived late*) (*left early*)
Sen. Ed Harbison (15th) (Ex-Officio) (*arrived late*)
Sen. Jack Hill (4th) (*left early*)
Sen. David Lucas (26th)
Sen. P.K. Martin (9th) (Ex-Officio)
Sen. Butch Miller (49th) (*arrived late*) (*left early*)
Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd) (*arrived late*) (*left early*)
Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th) (Ex-Officio) (*left early*)

NOTE: Sen. Henson (41st) was absent.

SB 397 (Sen. Walker, 20th, LC 36 4229) Bona Fide Coin Operated Amusement Machines; number that may be prohibited in local ordinance; change

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

NOTE: Sen. Kennedy (18th) arrived at 2:11 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Brass (28th), Sen. Harbison (15th), and Sen. Miller (49th) arrived at 2:13 p.m.

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

Testimony in favor of the Bill:

Virginia Galloway – Faith and Freedom Coalition
Joel Wiggins – Georgia Municipal Association
David Jaffer – Jaffer Law
Mike Griffin – Georgia Baptist Mission Board
Brad Bohannon – Georgia Lottery Board

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:

Angela Holland – Georgia Association of Convenience Stores
Les Schneider – Georgia Amusement and Music Operation

NOTE: Sen. Albers (56th) left at 2:29 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Albers (56th) returned at 2:36 p.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Albers (56th) who made a motion **SB 397 Do Pass (LC 36 4229)**. Sen. Brass (28th) seconded the motion. The motion passed 8-2.

Sen. Albers (56th), Sen. Brass (28th), Sen. Harbison (15th), Sen. Hill (4th), Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Martin (9th), Sen. Miller (49th), and Sen. Tippins (37th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Ginn (47th) and Sen. Lucas (26th) voted against the motion.

Committee Recommendation: SB 397 Do Pass (LC 36 4229)

SB 411 (Sen. Kennedy, 18th, LC 36 4219) Electric Membership Corporations; comply with certain requirements in determining the rates for attachments to utility poles by communications service providers; require

The Chair stated that SB 411 would receive a hearing only.

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

NOTE: Sen. Hill (4th) left at 3:08 p.m.

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

Testimony in favor of the Bill:

Michael Power – Georgia Cable Association

Ande Macke – Comcast

Adam Wise – Georgia Telecommunications Association

Jaeson Smith – Tallapoosa Development Authority

Testimony in opposition of the Bill:

Jason Bragg – Georgia EMC

NOTE: Sen. Tippins (37th) left at 3:11 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Gooch (51st) arrived at 3:14 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Brass (28th), Sen. Gooch (51st) and Sen. Ginn (47th) left at 3:45 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Harbison (15th), Sen. Kennedy (18th) and Sen. Miller (49th) left at 3:46 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Mullis (53rd) arrived at 3:47 p.m.

Committee Recommendation: SB 411 (LC 36 4219) No action was taken.

SB 403 (Sen. Jones, 25th, LC 36 4270) Lottery for Education; lottery game of sports wagering in this state; provide

The Chair stated SB 403 would receive a hearing only.

The Chair recognized Sen. Burt Jones (25th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Jones (25th) presented the bill to the Committee.

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

Testimony in favor of the Bill:

Derek Schiller – Atlanta Braves

Steve Koonin – Atlanta Hawks

Rich McKay – Atlanta Falcons

Stacie Stern – Fan Duel

Roy Robinson – MGM

Robert Highsmith – Holland & Knight

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:

Prof. John Kindt – Private Citizen

Adam Pipkin – Faith & Freedom Coalition

Mike Griffin – Georgia Baptist Mission Board

NOTE: Sen. Miller (49th) and Sen. Gooch (51st) returned at 3:48 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Albers (56th) left at 3:51 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Martin (9th) left at 3:53 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Gooch (51st) left at 3:55 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Harbison (15th) returned at 3:59 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Martin (9th) returned at 4:12 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Hill (4th) returned at 4:32 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Miller (49th) left at 4:40 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Hill (4th) and Sen. Mullis (53rd) left at 4:49 p.m.

Committee Recommendation: SB 403 (LC 36 4270) No action was taken.

Chairman Cowsert adjourned the meeting at 5:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Chairman

/s/ Samantha Nix, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Regulated Industries & Utilities
Thursday March 5, 2020**

The Senate Committee on Regulated Industries and Utilities met on Thursday, March 5, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. in Room 450 of the Capitol. The following Committee members were in attendance:

Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Chairman
Sen. John F. Kennedy (18th), Secretary
Sen. John Albers (56th)
Sen. Frank Ginn (47th)
Sen. Steve Gooch (51st)
Sen. Ed Harbison (15th) (Ex-Officio) (*left early*)
Sen. Steve Henson (41st)
Sen. Jack Hill (4th)
Sen. David Lucas (26th) (*arrived late*)
Sen. P.K. Martin (9th) (Ex-Officio)
Sen. Butch Miller (49th) (*arrived late*) (*left early*)
Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd)
Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th) (Ex-Officio)

NOTE: Sen. Brass (28th) was absent.

Chairman Cowsert (46th) called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

SB 428 (Sen. Cowsert, 46th, LC 36 4303) “Fair Business Practices Act of 1975”; deceptive practice of musical performance; without recording group’s permission; prohibit

The Chair presented the bill to the Committee.

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

Neutral Testimony on the Bill:
Mala Sharma – Georgia Music Partners

NOTE: Sen. Miller (49th) arrived at 4:06 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Lucas (26th) arrived at 4:08 p.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Albers (56th) who made a motion **SB 428 Do Pass (LC 36 4303)**. Sen. Mullis (53rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed 12-0.

Committee Recommendation: SB 428 Do Pass (LC 36 4303)

SB 375 (Sen. Mullis, 53rd, LC 48 0167) Cigarettes and Tobacco Related Products; additional penalties regarding any person under 21 years of age; provide; definition of product; revise

The Chair recognized Sen. Mullis (53rd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Mullis (53rd) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair recognized Sen. Martin (9th) who made the motion **SB 375 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 36 4363S)**. Sen. Harbison (15th) seconded the motion. The motion passed 12-0.

Committee Recommendation: SB 375 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 36 4363S)

SB 411 (Sen. Kennedy, 18th, LC 36 4219) **Electric Membership Corporations; comply with certain requirements in determining the rates for attachments to utility poles by communications service providers; require**

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

The Chair recognized Sen. John Albers (56th) for the purpose of introducing an amendment **(AM 36 0788) describing a date change on line 20 to state “reoccurring rate”**. Sen. Albers (56th) presented the amendment to the Committee.

The Chair recognized Sen. John Albers (56th) for the purpose of introducing an amendment **(AM 36 0789) describing the phasing of rates for four years**. Sen. Albers (56th) presented the amendment to the Committee.

The Chair recognized Sen. John Albers (56th) for the purpose of introducing an amendment **(AM 36 0790) requiring an annual report to be sent to the Legislature**. Sen. Albers (56th) presented the amendment to the Committee.

The Chair recognized Sen. Steve Gooch (51st) for the purpose of introducing an amendment **(AM 36 0791) changing the gratuity rate**. Sen. Gooch (51st) presented the amendment to the Committee.

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

Testimony in favor of the Bill:

Michael Power – Georgia Cable Association
Adam Wise – Georgia Telecommunications Association
Jason Smith – Tallapoosa Development Authority
Brian Ridley – Haralson County Schools

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:

Chip Jakins – Jackson EMC
Tim Martin – Carroll EMC
Chris Stephens – Coweta-Fayette EMC

NOTE: Sen. Miller (49th) left at 4:41 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Mullis (53rd) left at 4:48 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Harbison (15th) left at 4:54 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Mullis (53rd) returned at 4:57 p.m.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Albers (56th) who moved to adopt amendments (**AM 36 0788**), (**AM 36 0789**), and (**AM 36 0790**). Sen. Kennedy (18th) seconded the motion. The motion failed by a vote of 5-7.

Sen. Albers (56th), Sen. Henson (41st), Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Miller (49th), and Sen. Mullis (53rd) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Brass (28th), Sen. Ginn (47th), Sen. Gooch (51st), Sen. Harbison (15th), Sen. Hill (4th), Sen. Martin (9th), and Sen. Tippins (37th) voted against the motion.

The Chair recognized Sen. Gooch (51st) who moved to adopt (**AM 36 0791**). Sen. Ginn (47th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 9-1.

Sen. Albers (56th), Sen. Brass (28th), Sen. Ginn (47th), Sen. Gooch (51st), Sen. Harbison (15th), Sen. Hill (4th), Sen. Lucas (26th), Sen. Martin (9th), and Sen. Tippins (37th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Henson (41st) voted against the motion.

Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Miller (49th), and Sen. Mullis (53rd) abstained from voting.

The Chair indicated his preference that the adopted amendment be incorporated into a perfected Committee Substitute.

The Chair recognizes Sen. Albers (56th) who moved that **SB 411 Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Tippins (37th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 13-0.

Committee Recommendation: SB 411 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 36 4367S)

Chairman Cowsert (46th) adjourned the meeting at 5:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. John F. Kennedy (18th), Secretary

/s/ Samantha Nix, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Regulated Industries & Utilities
Friday, March 6, 2020**

The Senate Committee on Regulated Industries and Utilities met on Friday, March 6, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 450 of the Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Chairman
Sen. Matt Brass (28th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. John F. Kennedy (18th), Secretary
Sen. John Albers (56th) (*left early*)
Sen. Steve Gooch (51st)
Sen. Steve Henson (41st)
Sen. David Lucas (26th)
Sen. Butch Miller (49th)
Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd) (*arrived late*) (*left early*)

NOTE: Sen. Ginn (47th), Sen. Harbison (15th), Sen. Hill (4th), Sen. Martin (9th), and Sen. Tippins (37th) were absent.

Chairman Cowsert (46th) called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m.

SB 454 (Sen. Beach, 21, LC 33 8252) Food Service Establishments; mobile food service units that provide food for pickup and delivery via a smartphone or web-based application; provide

The Chair recognized Sen. Brandon Beach (21st) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Beach (21st) presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Mullis (53rd) arrived at 10:10 a.m.

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

Testimony in favor of the Bill:
Lawrence Bell – Troutman Sanders

Testimony in opposition of the Bill:
Karen Bremer – Georgia Restaurant Association

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment. No motion was made.

Committee Recommendation: SB 454 (LC 33 8252) No action was taken.

NOTE: Sen. Mullis (53rd) left at 10:45 a.m.

SB 364 (Sen. Gooch, 51st, LC 36 4130) Public Utilities and Public Transportation; percentage limitation; amount of the investments an electric membership corporation may make in a gas affiliate; eliminate

The Chair recognized Sen. Gooch (51st) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Gooch (51st) presented the bill to the committee.

The Chair recognized Sen. Henson (41st) who made a motion **SB 364 Do Pass (LC 36 4130)**. Sen. Albers (56th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0.

Committee Recommendation: SB 364 Do Pass (LC 36 4130)

SB 467 (Sen. Beach, 21, LC 28 9672) Bona Fide Coin Operated Amusement Machines; certain fines for violations by location owners and location operators; increase

The Chair stated that SB 467 would receive a hearing only.

The Chair recognized Sen. Beach (21st) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Beach (21st) presented the bill to the committee.

The Chair opened the floor for comment from the public.

Testimony in favor of the Bill:

Bob Cheeley – Cheeley Law Group

David Jaffer – Jaffer Law

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:

Brad Bohannon – Georgia Lottery Board

NOTE: Sen. Albers (56th) left at 11:00 a.m.

Committee Recommendation: SB 467 (LC 28 9672) No action was taken

Chairman Cowsert (46th) adjourned the meeting at 11:09 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. John F. Kennedy (18th), Secretary

/s/ Samantha Nix, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Regulated Industries & Utilities
Tuesday, June 16, 2020**

The Senate Committee on Regulated Industries and Utilities met on Tuesday, June 16, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. in Room 450 of the Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Chairman
Sen. Matt Brass (28th), Vice Chairman
Sen. John F. Kennedy (18th), Secretary
Sen. John Albers (56th) (*arrived late*)
Sen. Frank Ginn (47th) (*arrived late*)
Sen. Steve Gooch (51st)
Sen. Ed Harbison (15th) (Ex-Officio) (*left early*)
Sen. David Lucas (26th)
Sen. P.K. Martin (9th) (Ex-Officio)
Sen. Butch Miller (49th)
Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd)
Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th) (Ex-Officio)

NOTE: Sen. Henson (41st) was absent.

Chairman Cowsert (46th) called the meeting to order at 2:08 p.m.

[HB 987](#) (Rep. Cooper, 43rd, LC 33 8311S) Health; additional measures for the protection of elderly persons; provide

The Chair recognized Rep. Sharon Cooper (43rd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Cooper (43rd) presented the bill to the committee.

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

Testimony in favor of the Bill:

Tony Marshall – Georgia Healthcare Association
Joe Hood – Department of Community Health.

NOTE: Sen. Albers (56th) arrived at 2:55 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Mullis (53rd) left at 2:59 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Mullis (53rd) returned at 3:04 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Ginn (47th) arrived at 3:08 p.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Brass (28th) who made a motion **HB 987 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 33 8409S)**. Sen. Miller (49th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 11-0.

Sen. Brian Strickland (17th) is the Senate Sponsor.

Committee Recommendation: HB 987 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 33 8409S)

HB 932 (Rep. Gaines, 117th, LC 33 8290S) Georgia Podiatry Practice Act; podiatric medicine and surgery; change certain provisions

The Chair recognized Rep. Houston Gaines (117th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Gaines (117th) presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Harbison (15th) left at 3:28 p.m.

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

Testimony in favor of the Bill:

Scott Maxwell – Georgia Podiatric Medical Association

The Chair recognized Sen. Ginn (47th) who made a motion **HB 932 Do Pass (LC 33 8290S)**. Sen. Brass (28th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 10-0.

Sen. Ginn (47th) is the Senate Sponsor.

Committee Recommendation: HB 932 Do Pass (LC 33 8290S)

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 3:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. John F. Kennedy (18th), Secretary

/s/ Samantha Nix, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Regulated Industries and Utilities
Thursday, June 18, 2020

The Senate Committee on Regulated Industries and Utilities met on Thursday, June 18, 2020 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 450 of the Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Chairman
Sen. Matt Brass (28th), Vice Chairman
Sen. John F. Kennedy (18th), Secretary
Sen. John Albers (56th)
Sen. Frank Ginn (47th)
Sen. Steve Gooch (51st) (*left early*)
Sen. Ed Harbison (15th) (Ex-Officio)
Sen. Steve Henson (41st)
Sen. David Lucas (26th)
Sen. P.K. Martin (9th) (Ex-Officio)
Sen. Butch Miller (49th) (*arrived late*)
Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd)

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

Chairman Cowsert called the meeting to order at 4:38 p.m.

[HB 417](#) (Rep. Powell, 32nd, LC 28 9623S) Law Enforcement officers and agencies; comprehensive regulation of trauma scene cleanup services; provide

The Chair recognized Rep. Alan Powell (32nd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Powell (32nd) presented the bill to the committee.

The Chair recognized Sen. Matt Brass (28th) who made a motion **HB 417 Do Pass (LC 28 9623S)**. Sen. Albers (56th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 11-0.

Sen. Tyler Harper (7th) is the Senate Sponsor.

Committee Recommendation: HB 417 Do Pass (LC 28 962S)

[HB 972](#) (Rep. Houston, 170th, LC 36 4308S) Public Utilities and public transportation; penalties for violations of pipeline safety standards and regulations prescribed and enforced by the Public Service Commission; provide

The Chair recognized Rep. Penny Houston (170th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Houston (170th) presented the bill to the committee.

The Chair recognized Sen. Albers (56th) who made a motion **HB 972 Do Pass (LC 36 4308S)**. Sen. Tippins (37th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 11-0.

Sen. Albers (56th) is the Senate Sponsor.

Committee Recommendation: HB 972 (LC 36 4308S) Do Pass.

HB 244 (Rep. Stephens, 164th, LC 36 4386S) Electric Membership corporations; comply with certain requirements in determining the rates for attachments to utility poles by communications service providers; require

The Chair recognized Rep. Ron Stephens (164th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Stephens (164th) presented the bill to the committee.

NOTE: Sen. Gooch (51st) left at 4:41 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Martin (9th) left at 4:58 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Martin (9th) returned at 5:06 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Miller (49th) arrived at 5:38 p.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Kennedy (18th) who made a motion **HB 244 Do Pass (LC 36 438S)**. Sen. Henson (41st) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 7-4.

Sen. Albers (56th), Henson (41st), Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Lucas (26th), Sen. Martin (9th), Sen. Miller (49th), and Sen. Mullis (53rd) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Brass (28th), Sen. Ginn (47th), Sen. Gooch (51st), and Sen. Tippins (37th) voted against the motion.

Sen. Kennedy (18th) is the Senate Sponsor.

Committee Recommendation: HB 244 (LC 36 4386S) Do Pass

Chairman Cowsert (46th) adjourned the meeting at 5:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. John F. Kennedy (18th), Secretary

/s/ Samantha Nix, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Regulated Industries & Utilities
Friday, June 19, 2020**

The Senate Committee on Regulated Industries and Utilities met on Friday, June 19, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. in Room 450 of the Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance

Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Chairman
Sen. Matt Brass (28th), Vice Chairman
Sen. John F. Kennedy (18th), Secretary (*arrived late*)
Sen. John Albers (56th)
Sen. Frank Ginn (47th)
Sen. Steve Gooch (51st)
Sen. Ed Harbison (15th) (Ex-Officio)
Sen. Steve Henson (41st) (*arrived late*)
Sen. David Lucas (26th) (*arrived late*)
Sen. P.K. Martin (9th) (Ex-Officio) (*left early*)
Sen. Butch Miller (49th)
Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd)

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

Chairman Cowsert (46th) called the meeting to order at 3:31 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Kennedy (18th) arrived at 3:32 p.m.

[HB 857](#) (Rep. Powell, 32nd, LC 45 0479S) Conservation and natural resources; burning of certain chemically treated wood products for purposes of commercial energy generation; prohibit

The Chair recognized Rep. Alan Powell (32nd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Powell (32nd) presented the bill to the committee.

The Chair recognized Sen. Ginn (47th) who made a motion **HB 857 Do Pass (LC 45 0479S)**. Sen. Albers (56th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 9-0.

Sen. Wilkinson (50th) is the Senate Sponsor.

Committee Recommendation: HB 857 Do Pass (LC 45 0479S)

[HB 879](#) (Rep. Harrell, 106th, LC 36 4294S) Alcoholic Beverages; legislative intent of the General Assembly to exercise strict regulatory control over the three-tier system; provide

The Chair recognized Rep. Brett Harrell (106th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Harrell (106th) presented the bill to the committee.

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

Testimony in favor of the Bill:

Karen Bremer – Georgia Restaurant Association
John Watson – Amazon.com – Whole Foods
Kathy Kuzava – Georgia Food Industry Association
Thomas Beusse – Georgia Retailers
KC Honeyman – Wine & Spirits Wholesalers of America, Inc.
David Greenbaum – Tower Beer, Wine, & Spirits
Tyler Sheran – Tower Beer, Wine, & Spirits
Dave Williams – Metro Atlanta Chamber
Stony McGill – Georgia Alcohol Dealers

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:

Mike Griffin – Georgia Baptist Mission Board

NOTE: Sen. Lucas (26th) arrived at 3:50 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Henson (41st) arrived at 3:53 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Miller (49th) left at 3:58 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Miller (49th) returned at 4:00 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Martin (9th) left at 4:04 p.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Mullis (53rd) who made a motion **HB 879 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 36 4422S)**. Sen. Ginn (47th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 9-1.

Sen. Albers (56th), Sen. Brass (28th), Sen. Ginn (47th), Sen. Gooch (51st), Sen. Henson (41st), Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Lucas (26th), Sen. Miller (49th), and Sen. Mullis (53rd) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Harbison (15th) voted against the motion.

Sen. Cowsert (46th) is the Senate Sponsor.

Committee Recommendation: HB 879 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 36 4422S)

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. John F. Kennedy (18th), Secretary

/s/ Samantha Nix, Recording Secretary