

**THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
2020 ROSTER**

Sen. Jesse Stone, Chairman

District 23

827 N. Liberty Street
Waynesboro, GA 30830

Sen. John Kennedy

District 18

231 Riverside Drive
Macon, GA 31201

Sen. Bill Cowsert, Vice-Chairman

District 46

P.O. Box 512
Athens, GA 30603

Sen. William Ligon, Jr.

District 3

158 Scranton Connector
Brunswick, GA 31525

Sen. Blake Tillery, Secretary

District 19

404 Durden Street
Vidalia, GA 30474

Sen. Elena Parent

District 42

956 Springdale Road NE
Atlanta, GA 30306

Sen. Bill Heath

District 31

2225 Cashtown Road
Bremen, GA 30110

Sen. Michael "Doc" Rhett

District 33

P.O. Box 777
Marietta, GA 30061

Sen. Harold Jones, II

District 22

437 Walker Street
Augusta, GA 30901

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 27, 2020

The Senate Committee on Judiciary met on Monday, January 27, 2020, at 4:00 p.m., in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building (CLOB). The following Committee 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 (22nd)
Sen. John Kennedy (18th)
Sen. William Ligon (3rd) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd)
Sen. Michael Rhett (33rd)
Sen. Brian Strickland (17th) (*Left Early*)

Chairman Stone (23rd) called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Cowsert (46th) arrived at 4:07 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Tillery (19th) arrived at 4:07p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Ligon (3rd) arrived at 4:07p.m.

[HB 230](#) (Rep. Holcomb, 81st, LC 48 0037) “Business corporations; provide for benefit corporations”

The Chair recognized Rep. Scott Holcomb (81st) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Holcomb (81st) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Cowsert (46th) who made a motion that **SB 230 Do Pass (LC 48 0037)**. Sen. Jones (22nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 6-3.

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

Sen. Heath (31st), Sen. Tillery (19th), and Sen. Cowsert (46th) voted against the motion.

NOTE: Sen. Strickland (17th) left at 4:50 p.m.

Committee Recommendation: SB 230 Do Pass (LC 48 0037)

SB 35 (Sen. Jackson, 2nd, LC 28 9006) “Sex Offenders; residing near their victims and such victims' immediate family members; prohibit”

The Chair stated that SB 35 would receive a hearing only.

The Chair recognized Sen. Lester Jackson (2nd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Jackson presented the bill to the committee.

The Chair opened the floor to the public.

Committee Recommendation: SB 35 (LC 28 9006) No action was taken.

Chairman Stone (23rd) adjourned the meeting at 5:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Leighton Kennedy, Recording Secretary

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Monday, February 3rd 2020

The Senate Committee on Judiciary met on Monday, February 3rd, 2020, at 4:00 p.m., in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building (CLOB). The following Committee Members were in attendance:

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

NOTE: Sen. Tillery (19th) and Sen. Strickland (17th) were absent.

Chairman Stone (23rd) called the meeting to order at 4:08 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Heath (31st) arrived at 4:09 p.m.

SB 35 (Sen. Jackson 2nd, LC 28 9006) Sex offenders; residing near their victims' immediate family members.

The Chair recognized Sen. Lester Jackson (2nd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Jackson (2nd) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Jones (22nd) who made a motion that **SB 35 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 41 2284S)**. Sen. Rhett (33rd) seconded the motion. The motion failed by a vote of 3-4.

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

Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Heath (31st), Sen. Kennedy (18th), and Sen. Ligon (3rd) voted against the motion.

Committee Recommendation: SB 35 (LC 28 9006) No action taken.

NOTE: Sen. Ligon left at 4:31 p.m.

SB 325 (Sen. Karinshak, 48th, LC 41 2101) Limitations on Prosecution; Statute of limitations; corporation may be prosecuted for trafficking of persons for labor or sex servitude; revise.

The Chair stated that SB 325 would receive a hearing only.

The Chair recognized Sen. Zahra Karinshak (48th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Karinshak (48th) 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:

Thomas Weaver, private citizen

Ambassador Susan Coppedge

Jill Travis of the Georgia Criminal Defense Lawyers (GCDL)

Committee Recommendations: SB 325 (LC 41 2101) No action was taken.

NOTE: Sen. Ligon returned at 4:40 p.m.

SB 331 (Sen. Robertson, 29th, LC 28 9508) Minor; to knowingly possess images that depict a naked or nearly naked, suggestively posed and inappropriately sexualized child; illegal.

The Chair stated that SB 331 would receive a hearing only.

The Chair recognized Sen. Randy Robertson (29th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Robertson (29th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public.

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Peter Skandalakis of PAC

Paul Smith of Citizen Impact

Testimony in opposition to the bill:

Thomas Weaver, private citizen

Jill Travis, of GCDL

Committee Recommendations: SB 331 (LC 28 9508) No action was taken.

NOTE: Sen. Cowsert (46th) left at 5:09 p.m.

SB 332 (Sen. Jackson, 2nd, LC 28 9457) Obscenity and Related Offenses; possession or manufacturing of childlike sex dolls; prohibit.

The Chair stated that SB 332 would receive a hearing only.

The Chair recognized Sen. Jackson (2nd) for the purpose of presenting the bill.
Sen. Jackson (2nd) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public.

NOTE: Sen. Rhett (33rd) left at 5:16 p.m.

Committee Recommendation: SB 332 (LC 28 9457) No action was taken.

Chairman Stone (23rd) adjourned the meeting at 5:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Leighton Kennedy, Recording Secretary

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Wednesday, February 5th, 2020

The Senate Committee on Judiciary met on Wednesday, February 5th, 2020, at 4:00 p.m., in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building (CLOB). The following Committee Members were in attendance:

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

NOTE: Sen. Strickland (17th) was absent.

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

NOTE: Sen. William Ligon (3rd) arrived at 4:08 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. John Kennedy (18th) arrived at 4:09 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Cowsert (46th) arrived at 4:10 p.m.

SB 315 (Sen. Tippins 37th, LC 41 2195) Mechanics and Materialmen. Waiver and release and lien and bond rights/other remedies under the law; provide.

The Chair recognized Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Tippins (37th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public.

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Greg Joy of Swift Currie law firm

Mark Woodall of AGC

Harriet Eisenberg of Atlanta Custom Bath & Glass

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Ligon (3rd) who made a motion that **SB 315 (LC 41 2195) Do Pass**. Sen. Kennedy (18th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 8-0.

Sen. Jones (22nd), Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Ligon (3rd), Sen. Parent (42nd), Sen. Rhett (33rd), Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Tillery (19th), and Sen. Heath (31st) voted in favor of the motion.

Committee Recommendation: SB 315 Do Pass (LC 41 2195)

SB 335 (Sen. Brass 28th, LC 33 8177) Children and Youth; foster children and foster families; laws and supports strengthen.

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. Jones (22nd) left at 4:36 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Cowsert (46th) left at 4:37 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Ligon (3rd) left at 4:38 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Jones (22nd) returned at 4:40 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Ligon (3rd) returned at 4:48 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Tillery (19th) left at 4:48 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Tillery (19th) returned at 4:51 p.m.

The Chair opened the floor to the public.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Tillery (19th) who made a motion that **SB 335 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 50 0042S)**. Sen. Rhett (33rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0.

Sen. Jones (22nd), Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Ligon (3rd), Sen. Parent (42nd), Sen. Rhett (33rd), Sen. Tillery (19th), and Sen. Heath (31st) voted in favor of the motion.

Committee Recommendation: SB 335 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 50 0042S)

SB 287 (Sen. Jones II, 22nd, LC 41 2169) Limitations on prosecution for murder, rape, aggravated sodomy, or aggravated sexual battery.

The Chair stated that SB 287 would receive a hearing only.

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 to the public.

Testimony in favor of the bill:
Sean Hallahan of RAINN

Jennifer Bivins of Georgia to End Sexual Assault

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

Committee Recommendations: SB 287 (LC 41 2169) No action was taken.

Chairman Stone (23rd) adjourned the meeting at 4:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Leighton Kennedy, Recording Secretary

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Wednesday, February 19, 2020

The Senate Committee on Judiciary met on Wednesday, February 19, 2020, at 4:00 p.m., in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building (CLOB). The following Committee Members were in attendance:

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

Chairman Stone (23rd) called the meeting to order at 4:06 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Parent (42nd) arrived at 4:09 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Strickland (17th) arrived at 4:09 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Jones (22nd) arrived at 4:14 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Kennedy (18th) arrived at 4:18 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Cowsert (46th) arrived at 4:47 p.m.

SB 344 (Sen. Mullis, 53rd, LC 28 9516) Witness or Criminal Defendant; certain proceedings conducted by video conference; requirements; provide.

The Chair stated that SB 344 would receive a hearing only.

The Chair recognized Sen. Jeff 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.

Testimony in favor of the bill:
Stan Cooper of Dept. of Corrections
Judge Shawn Ellen Lagrue
Arturo Curso of GCDL
Todd Edwards of ACCG

NOTE: Sen. Ligon (3rd) left at 3:38 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Ligon (3rd) returned at 4:42 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Ligon (3rd) left at 4:49 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Ligon (3rd) returned at 4:50 p.m.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

Committee Recommendation: SB 344 (LC 28 9516) No action was taken.

SB 318 (Sen. Ligon, 3rd, LC 49 0010) Education; public forum at public institutions of higher education; provide.

The Chair stated that SB 318 would receive a hearing only.

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 to the public.

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Matt Sharp of Alliance Defending Freedom

Tony West of Americans for Prosperity

Ashley Johnson of the University System of Georgia

Brooke Bowen of the University System of Georgia

Joe Cohn of FIRE

Ryan Covan, KSU student

Taylor McClure, Ga State student

Daelen Lowry, Gwinnett College student

Jeb Edmondson, UNG student

Jack Mallon, UGA student

Tre Lance, UGA student

Lydia Gallo, Ga State student

Testimony in opposition to the bill:

Nicole Robinson of ACLU

Jeff Graham of Georgia Equality

NOTE: Sen. Strickland (17th) left at 5:50 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Parent (42nd) left at 5:54 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Cowsert (46th) left at 6:10 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Rhett (33rd) left at 6:11 p.m.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

Committee Recommendation: SB 318 (LC 49 0010) No action was taken.

Chairman Stone (23rd) adjourned the meeting at 6:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Leighton Kennedy, Recording Secretary

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Thursday, February 20, 2020

The Senate Committee on Judiciary met on Thursday, February 20, 2020, at 4:00 p.m., in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building (CLOB). The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Jesse Stone (23rd), Chairman
Sen. Bill Heath (31st)
Sen. Harold V. Jones (22nd)
Sen. John Kennedy (18th)
Sen. William Ligon (3rd)
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd) (*Left Early*)
Sen. Michael Rhett (33rd)
Sen. Brian Strickland (17th)

NOTE: Sen. Cowsert (46th) and Sen. Tillery (19th) were absent.

Chairman Stone (23rd) called the meeting to order at 4:08 p.m.

SB 373 (Sen. Kennedy, 18th, LC 36 4191) Nonprofit Corporations; directors and officers of electric membership corporations and foreign electric cooperatives; provisions; change.

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.

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Karen Beaver of Ga Center for Nonprofits
Chris Sizemore of Creative Mischief

NOTE: Sen. Parent (42nd) left at 4:17 p.m.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Strickland (17th) who made a motion that **SB 373 Do Pass (LC 36 4191)**. Sen. Ligon (3rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 6-0.

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

Committee Recommendation: SB 373 Do Pass (LC 36 4191)

Chairman Stone (23rd) adjourned the meeting at 4:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Leighton Kennedy, Recording Secretary

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Monday, February 24, 2020

The Senate Committee on Judiciary met on Monday, February 24, 2020, at 4:00 p.m., in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building (CLOB). The following Committee 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 (22nd) (*Left Early*)
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 4:03 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Strickland (17th) arrived at 4:05 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Tillery (19th) arrived at 4:12 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Cowsert (46th) arrived at 4:13 p.m.

SB 405 (Sen. Tippins, 37th, LC 28 9571) Superior Courts of the Cobb Judicial Circuit; eleventh judge; provide.

The Chair recognized Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Tippins (37th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public.

Testimony in favor of the bill:
Judge Reuben Green

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Rhett (33rd) who made a motion that **SB 405 Do Pass (LC 28 9571)**. Sen. Kennedy (18th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 6-0.

Sen. Jones (22nd), Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Parent (42nd), Sen. Rhett (33rd), Sen. Heath (31st), and Sen. Strickland (17th) voted in favor of the motion.

Committee Recommendation: SB 405 Do Pass (LC 28 9571)

SB 388 (Sen. Kennedy, 18th, LC 43 1531) **General Income Tax Provisions; certain actions relating to false or fraudulent material matter on returns, affidavits, claims, or documents; penalties; increase.**

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.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Strickland (17th) who made a motion that **SB 388 Do Pass (LC 43 1531)**. Sen. Heath (31st) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 6-0.

Sen. Jones (22nd), Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Parent (42nd), Sen. Rhett (33rd), Sen. Heath (31st), and Sen. Strickland (17th) voted in favor of the motion.

Committee Recommendation: SB 388 Do Pass (LC 43 1531)

SB 357 (Sen. Heath, 31st, LC 28 9536) **Firearms; carry weapons in places of worship and in schools operated by such places of worship; revise the ability.**

The Chair stated that SB 357 would receive a hearing only.

The Chair recognized Sen. Heath (31st) for the purpose of presenting the bill.
Sen. Heath (31st) presented the bill to the committee.

NOTE: Sen. Jones (22nd) left at 4:19 p.m.

The Chair opened the floor to the public.

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Paul Smith of Citizen Impact
Mike Griffin of Ga Baptist Mission Board

Testimony in opposition to the bill:

Don Towers of GeorgiaCarry.org
Courtney Spriggs of Mom's Demand Action

Committee Recommendation: SB 357 (LC 28 9536) No action was taken.

Chairman Stone (23rd) adjourned the meeting at 4:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Leighton Kennedy, Recording Secretary

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Wednesday, February 26, 2020

The Senate Committee on Judiciary met on Wednesday, February 26, 2020, at 4:00 p.m., in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building (CLOB). The following Committee Members were in attendance:

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

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

Chairman Stone (23rd) called the meeting to order at 4:21 p.m.

SB 40 (Sen. Jackson, 2nd, LC 33 7607) Sexual Assault by Persons with Supervisory or Disciplinary Authority; sexual contact between an employee and student enrolled at such school; prohibit.

The Chair stated that SB 40 would receive a hearing only.

The Chair recognized Sen. Jackson (2nd) and Mrs. Beth Vaughan of the Senate Research for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Jackson (2nd) and Mrs. Vaughan presented the bill to the Committee.

Committee Recommendation: SB 40 (LC 33 7607) No action was taken.

SB 429 (Sen. Ligon, 3rd, LC 33 8062) 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.

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Betsy Howarton of Legislative Counsel

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Cowsert (46th) who made a motion that **SB 429 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 33 8312S)**.

Sen. Kennedy (18th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 8-0.

Sen. Jones (22nd), Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Ligon (3rd), Sen. Parent (42nd), Sen. Rhett (33rd), Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Heath (31st), and Sen. Strickland (17th) voted in favor of the motion.

Committee Recommendation: SB 429 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 33 8312S)

NOTE: Sen. Strickland (17th) left at 4:27 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Strickland (17th) returned at 4:29 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Ligon (3rd) left at 4:30 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Ligon (3rd) returned at 4:39 p.m.

SB 435 (Sen. Strickland, 17th, LC 41 2369-EC) "The Debbie Vance Act"; court imposing sentence may grant the relief of vacatur for convictions and sentences of defendants; provide.

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.

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Kim Frye of GCDL

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Cowsert (46th) who made a motion to strike the term “may” on line 118 and inserting in its place the term “shall”. Sen. Parent (42nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair indicated his preference that the adopted amendment be included in a perfected committee substitute.

The Chair recognized Sen. Cowsert (46th) who made a motion that **SB 435 Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Parent (42nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 8-0.

Sen. Jones (22nd), Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Ligon (3rd), Sen. Parent (42nd), Sen. Rhett (33rd), Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Heath (31st), and Sen. Strickland (17th) voted in favor of the motion.

NOTE: Sen. Ligon (3rd) left at 4:41 p.m.

Committee Recommendation: SB 435 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 41 2416S)

SB 288 (Sen. Anderson, 43rd, LC 41 2171) **Criminal History Record Information; automatic restriction; final disposition other than a conviction; provide.**

The Chair stated that SB 288 would receive a hearing only.

The Chair recognized Sen. Tonya Anderson (43rd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Anderson (43rd) presented the bill to the committee.

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public.

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Brenda Smeeton of Georgia Justice Project
Don Plummer of Georgia Interfaith Public Policy Center
Brenda Spaar of Greater Gwinnett Reentry Alliance
Mel Wright of Georgia Justice Project
Alex Camardelle of Georgia Budget & Policy Institute
Kim Frye of GCDL

NOTE: Sen. Kennedy (18th) left at 5:09 p.m.

Committee Recommendation: SB 288 (LC 41 2171) No action was taken.

Chairman Stone (23rd) adjourned the meeting at 5:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Leighton Kennedy, Recording Secretary

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Thursday, February 27, 2020

The Senate Committee on Judiciary met on Thursday, February 27, 2020, at 4:00 p.m., in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building (CLOB). The following Committee 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 (22nd)
Sen. William Ligon (3rd)
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd)
Sen. Michael Rhett (33rd) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Brian Strickland (17th)

NOTE: Sen. Tillery (19th) and Sen. Kennedy (18th) were absent.

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

NOTE: Sen. Rhett (33rd) arrived at 4:20 p.m.

SB 318 (Sen. Ligon, 3rd, LC 49 0010) Education; public forums at public institutions of higher education; provide.

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.

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Brooke Bowen of the University System of Georgia

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Ligon (3rd) who made a motion to strike the term “association” on lines 120 and 256 and inserting in its place the term “organization”, and to strike lines 135-138 and 271-274. Sen. Heath (31st) seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0.

The Chair indicated his preference that the adopted amendment be included in a perfected committee substitute.

The Chair recognized Sen. Heath (31st) who made a motion that **SB 318 Do Pass by Substitute.**

Sen. Strickland (17th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 4-3.

Sen. Stone (23rd), Sen. Ligon (3rd), Sen. Heath (31st), and Sen. Strickland (17th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Rhett (33rd), Sen. Parent (42nd), and Sen. Jones (22nd) voted against the motion.

Committee Recommendation: SB 318 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 41 2423S)

NOTE: Sen. Ligon (3rd) left at 4:31 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Ligon (3rd) returned at 4:35 p.m.

SB 287 (Sen. Jones, 22nd, LC 41 2169) Limitations on Prosecution; statute of limitations on the offenses of rape; revise.

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

Sen. Jones (22nd) presented the bill to the committee.

NOTE: Sen. Heath (31st) left at 4:37 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Heath (31st) returned at 4:38 p.m.

The Chair opened the floor to comments from the public.

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Zanele Ngubeni of GCDL

Jill Travis of GCDL

Sean Holivan of RAINN

Patti Kelly of RAINN

Jennifer Bivias of Georgia Network to End Sexual Assault

Shenna Morris of GA Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Greg Loughlin of Men Stopping Violence

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Strickland (17th) who made a motion that **SB 287 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 41 2422S)**. Sen. Parent (42nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 6-0.

Sen. Jones (22nd), Sen. Ligon (3rd), Sen. Parent (42nd), Sen. Rhett (33rd), Sen. Heath (31st), and Sen. Strickland (17th) voted in favor of the motion.

Committee Recommendation: SB 287 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 41 2422S)

SB 35 (Sen. Jackson, 2nd, LC 28 9006) Sex Offenders; residing near their victims and such victims' immediate family members; prohibit.

The Chair recognized Sen. Lester Jackson (2nd) for the purpose of presenting the bill.
Sen. Jackson (2nd) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public.

Testimony in favor of the bill:
Zanele Ngubeni of GCDL

NOTE: Sen. Jones (22nd) left at 4:56 p.m.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Rhett (33rd) who made a motion that **SB 35 Do Pass (LC 41 2355S)**
Sen. Parent (42nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 4-1.

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

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

Committee Recommendation: SB 35 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 41 2355S)

NOTE: Sen. Jones (22nd) returned at 5:00 p.m.

SB 40 (Sen. Jackson, 2nd, LC 33 7607) Sexual Assault by Persons with Supervisory or Disciplinary Authority; sexual contact between an employee and student enrolled at such school; prohibit.

The Chair recognized Sen. Jackson (2nd) for the purpose of presenting the bill.
Sen. Jackson (2nd) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public.

Testimony in opposition to the bill:
Thomas Weaver, private citizen.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Rhett (33rd) who made a motion that **SB 40 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 41 2420S)**.

Sen. Jones (22nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 6-0.

Sen. Jones (22nd), Sen. Ligon (3rd), Sen. Parent (42nd), Sen. Rhett (33rd), Sen. Heath (31st), and Sen. Strickland (17th) voted in favor of the motion.

Committee Recommendation: SB 40 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 41 2420S)

SB 423 (Sen. Albers, 56th, LC 49 0134) "Max Gruver Act"; expanded definition of hazing; provide; enact.

The Chair stated that SB 423 would receive a hearing only.

The Chair recognized Sen. John Albers (56th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Albers (56th) presented the bill to the committee.

Committee Recommendation: SB 423 (LC 49 0134) No action was taken.

NOTE: Sen. Cowsert (46th) arrived at 5:06 p.m.

SB 357 (Sen. Heath, 31st, LC 28 9536) Firearms; carry weapons in places of worship and in schools operated by such places of worship; revise the ability.

The Chair recognized Sen. 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.

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Bona Allen of Moms Demand Action

Testimony in opposition to the bill:

Thomas Weaver, private citizen.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Strickland (17th) who made a motion that **SB 357 Do Pass (LC 28 9536)**. Sen. Ligon (3rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 4-3.

Sen. Ligon (3rd), Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Heath (31st), and Sen. Strickland (17th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Parent (42nd), Sen. Rhett (33rd), and Sen. Jones (22nd) voted against the motion.

Committee Recommendation: SB 357 Do Pass (LC 28 9536)

Chairman Stone (23rd) adjourned the meeting at 5:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Leighton Kennedy, Recording Secretary

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Monday, March 2, 2020

The Senate Committee on Judiciary met on Monday, March 2, 2020, at 4:00 p.m., in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building (CLOB). The following Committee Members were in attendance:

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

Chairman Stone (23rd) called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Jones (22nd) arrived at 5:12 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Cowsert (46th) arrived at 5:14 p.m.

[SB 344](#) (Sen. Mullis, 53rd, LC 28 9516) Witness or Criminal Defendant; certain proceedings conducted by video conference; requirements; provide.

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

NOTE: Sen. Kennedy (18th) left at 5:24 p.m.

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

NOTE: Sen. Kennedy (18th) returned at 5:29 p.m.

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public.

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Jill Travis of GCDL

Steve Scarborough of GCDL

Tain Kell of CSCJ

Judge Wade Padgett

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Tillery (19th) who made a motion to strike the term “shall” on lines 44 and 133 and inserting in their place the term “may”, to strike the term “defendants” on lines 45 and 46 and inserting in their place the term “prisoners”, to add the phrase “subject to the right of the judge to sequester witnesses” in lines 73 and 128. Sen. Kennedy (18th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair indicated his preference that the adopted amendment be included in a perfected committee substitute.

The Chair recognized Sen. Strickland (17th) who made a motion that **SB 344 Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Kennedy (18th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 9-0.

Sen. Jones (22nd), Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Ligon (3rd), Sen. Parent (42nd), Sen. Rhett (33rd), Sen. Cowser (46th), Sen. Tillery (19th), Sen. Heath (31st), and Sen. Strickland (17th) voted in favor of the motion.

Committee Recommendation: SB 344 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 41 2447S)

SB 423 (Sen. Albers, 56th, LC 49 0134) "Max Gruver Act"; expanded definition of hazing; provide; enact.

The Chair stated that SB 423 would receive a hearing only.

The Chair recognized Sen. John Albers (56th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Albers (56th) presented the bill to the committee.

NOTE: Sen. Ligon (3rd) left at 5:54 p.m.

The Chair opened the floor to comments from the public.

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Steve Gruver of the Max Gruver Foundation
Rae Ann Gruver of the Max Gruver Foundation
Derek Marchman of Marchman Consulting
Jill Travis of GCDL
Amanda Palmer of GCDL

NOTE: Sen. Ligon (3rd) returned at 6:06 p.m.

Committee Recommendation: SB 423 (LC 49 0134) No action was taken.

HR 1023 (Rep. Welch, 110th, LC 41 2302S) Judiciary; people may petition for declaratory relief from certain acts of this state or certain local governments or officers or employees; provide.

The Chair recognized Rep. Andy Welch (110th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Welch (110th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public.

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Thomas Weaver, private citizen.

Edward Lindsey of Citizens for Government Accountability

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Parent (42nd) who offered amendment (**AM 41 0497**) and moved its adoption. Sen. Rhett (33rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair indicated his preference that the adopted amendment be included in a perfected committee substitute.

The Chair recognized Sen. Kennedy (18th) who made a motion that **HR 1023 Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Parent (42nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 9-0.

Sen. Jones (22nd), Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Ligon (3rd), Sen. Parent (42nd), Sen. Rhett (33rd), Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Tillery (19th), Sen. Heath (31st), and Sen. Strickland (17th) voted in favor of the motion.

Committee Recommendation: HR 1023 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 41 2448S)

SR 841 (Sen. Kennedy, 18th, LC 41 2399) Legislative Acts; void; people of this state may petition the judiciary for declaratory relief from certain acts of this state that violate the laws or Constitution of this state or the Constitution of the United States; provide.

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

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Kennedy (18th) who offered amendment (**AM 41 0497**) and moved its adoption, along with striking the term “do” on line 32 and replacing it with the term “shall”. Sen. Heath (31st) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair indicated his preference that the adopted amendment be included in a perfected committee substitute.

The Chair recognized Sen. Parent (42nd) who made a motion that **SR 841 Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Cowsert (46th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 9-0.

Sen. Jones (22nd), Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Ligon (3rd), Sen. Parent (42nd), Sen. Rhett (33rd), Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Tillery (19th), Sen. Heath (31st), and Sen. Strickland (17th) voted in favor of the motion.

Committee Recommendation: SR 841 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 41 2449S)

SB 443 (Sen. Stone, 23rd, LC 41 2370) **Garnishment Proceedings; revise; uniform procedures for garnishment actions; provide.**

The Chair recognized Mr. Adam Cleveland for the purpose of presenting the bill. Mr. Cleveland presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public.

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Adam Cleveland of Georgia Creditors Council
Judge Wane Pardem of Council of State Court Judges

NOTE: Sen. Jones (22nd) left at 6:56 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Cowsert (46th) left at 6:57 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Ligon (3rd) left at 6:58 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Parent (42nd) left at 7:06 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Kennedy (18th) left at 7:08 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Parent (42nd) returned at 7:09 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Jones (22nd) returned at 7:10 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Ligon (3rd) returned at 7:11 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Kennedy (18th) returned at 7:11 p.m.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Strickland (17th) who made a motion that **SB 443 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 41 2443S)**. Sen. Tillery (19th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 8-0.

Sen. Jones (22nd), Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Ligon (3rd), Sen. Parent (42nd), Sen. Rhett (33rd), Sen. Tillery (19th), Sen. Heath (31st), and Sen. Strickland (17th) voted in favor of the motion.

Committee Recommendation: SB 443 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 41 2443S)

SB 439 (Sen. Brass, 28th, LC 41 2341) Juvenile Code; enhanced notice to and improved participation of foster, preadoptive, and relative caregivers in certain hearings; provide.

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

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Tillery (19th) who made a motion that **SB 439 Do Pass (LC 41 2341)**. Sen. Kennedy (18th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 8-0.

Sen. Jones (22nd), Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Ligon (3rd), Sen. Parent (42nd), Sen. Rhett (33rd), Sen. Tillery (19th), Sen. Heath (31st), and Sen. Strickland (17th) voted in favor of the motion.

Committee Recommendation: SB 439 Do Pass (LC 41 2341)

SB 442 (Sen. Ligon, 3rd, LC 44 1444) Property; amendments to property owners' association instruments and covenants that restrict rental of residential lots and plots; prohibit.

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.

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Lanier Coutler of Community Association Institute of GA
Elmer Stancil of Dentons

NOTE: Sen. Rhett (33rd) left at 7:25 p.m.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Ligon (3rd) who made a motion to strike lines 26-33 and inserting in its place the sentence “No amendment shall be made to an instrument so as to prohibit or restrict a non-owner occupied lot from continuing to be leased or rented to the pre-amended instrument”. Sen. Heath (31st) seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0.

The Chair indicated his preference that the adopted amendment be included in a perfected committee substitute.

The Chair recognized Sen. Strickland (17th) who made a motion that **SB 442 Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Tillery (19th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0.

Sen. Jones (22nd), Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Ligon (3rd), Sen. Parent (42nd), Sen. Tillery (19th), Sen. Heath (31st), and Sen. Strickland (17th) voted in favor of the motion.

Committee Recommendation: SB 442 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 41 2446S)

NOTE: Sen. Rhett (33rd) returned at 7:29 p.m.

SB 224 (Sen. Harper, 7th, LC 41 1867) Crimes and Offenses; carrying of weapons in judicial courts by weapons carry license holders; provisions; revise.

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

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public.

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Thomas Weaver, private citizen

Jerry Henry, of GA Carry

Judge Russell McClelland

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Tillery (19th) who made a motion to strike the term “offices” on line 39 and inserting in its place the term “officers”. Sen. Heath (31st) seconded the motion. The motion passed 8-0.

The Chair indicated his preference that the adopted amendment be included in a perfected committee substitute.

The Chair recognized Sen. Tillery (19th) who made a motion that **SB 224 Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Heath (31st) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 5-3.

Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Ligon (3rd), Sen. Tillery (19th), Sen. Heath (31st), and Sen. Strickland (17th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Jones (22nd) Sen. Parent (42nd), and Sen. Rhett (33rd) voted against the motion.

Committee Recommendation: SB 224 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 41 2450S)

Chairman Stone (23rd) adjourned the meeting at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Leighton Kennedy, Recording Secretary

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Wednesday, March 4, 2020

The Senate Committee on Judiciary met on Wednesday, March 4, 2020, at 4:00 p.m., in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building (CLOB). The following Committee 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 (22nd)
Sen. John Kennedy (18th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. William Ligon (3rd)
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd)
Sen. Michael Rhett (33rd)
Sen. Brian Strickland (17th)

Chairman Stone (23rd) called the meeting to order at 5:06 p.m.

[SB 437](#) (Sen. Beach, 21st, LC 41 2366) 'Georgia Cooperative Associations Code'; formation of general cooperative associations under the laws of this state; 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. Kennedy (18th) arrived at 5:11 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Cowsert (46th) arrived at 5:13 p.m.

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public.

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Brandee Bickle of Ga's Own Credit Union
Bruce Bowers of Atlanta Retailers Association

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Strickland (17th) who made a motion to exclude any mention of a "state or federally chartered credit union." Sen. Parent (42nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed 9-0.

The Chair indicated his preference that the adopted amendment be included in a perfected committee substitute.

The Chair recognized Sen. Strickland (17th) who made a motion that **SB 347 Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Tillery (19th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 9-0.

Sen. Jones (22nd), Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Ligon (3rd), Sen. Parent (42nd), Sen. Rhett (33rd), Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Tillery (19th), Sen. Heath (31st), and Sen. Strickland (17th) voted in favor of the motion.

Committee Recommendation: SB 347 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 41 2460S)

SB 390 (Sen. Gooch, 51st, LC 36 4250) **Civil Practice and Litigation; several titles of the O.C.G.A.; amend and revise.**

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

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public.

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Keith Milligan of JTM Corp.
Josh Mackey of the Georgia Healthcare Association
Glen Hendricks of the Georgia Healthcare Association

Testimony in opposition to the bill:

Collin Lawler of Americans for Patient Access
Dan Snipes of the GTA
John Pope of the GTA

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Ligon (3rd) who presented a proposed substitute (**LC 36 4350S**) to the committee.

NOTE Sen. Parent (42nd) left at 6:07 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Parent (42nd) returned at 6:08 p.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Cowsert (46th) who made a **motion to amend** the proposed substitute (**LC 36 4350S**) by including therein all portions of (**LC 36 4356S**) that were omitted or deleted. Sen. Heath (31st) seconded the motion. The motion failed by a vote of 3-6.

Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Cowsert (46th), and Sen. Heath (31st) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Jones (22nd), Sen. Ligon (3rd), Sen. Parent (42nd), Sen. Rhett (33rd), Sen. Tillery (19th), and Sen. Strickland (17th) voted against the motion.

The Chair recognized Sen. Ligon (3rd) who made a motion to add the phrase “negligently or” on line 236 of the proposed substitute (**LC 36 4350S**). Sen. Parent (42nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 7-2.

Sen. Jones (22nd), Sen. Ligon (3rd), Sen. Parent (42nd), Sen. Rhett (33rd), Sen. Tillery (19th), Sen. Heath (31st), and Sen. Strickland (17th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Kennedy (18th) and Sen. Cowsert (46th) voted against the motion.

The Chair indicated his preference that the adopted amendment be included in a perfected committee substitute.

The Chair recognized Sen. Ligon (3rd) who made a motion that **SB 390 Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Rhett (33rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 6-3.

Sen. Jones (22nd), Sen. Ligon (3rd), Sen. Parent (42nd), Sen. Rhett (33rd), Sen. Tillery (19th), and Sen. Strickland (17th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Cowsert (46th) and Sen. Heath (31st) voted against the motion.

Committee Recommendation: SB 390 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 41 2461S)

Chairman Stone (23rd) adjourned the meeting at 6:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Leighton Kennedy, Recording Secretary

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Thursday, March 5, 2020

The Senate Committee on Judiciary met on Thursday, March 5, 2020, at 4:00 p.m., in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building (CLOB). The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Jesse Stone (23rd), Chairman
Sen. Bill Heath (31st)
Sen. Harold V. Jones (22nd)
Sen. John Kennedy (18th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd)
Sen. Michael Rhett (33rd)
Sen. Brian Strickland (17th)
Sen. Brandon Beach (21st), Ex-Officio (*Arrived Late*)

NOTE: Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Tillery (19th), and Sen. Ligon (3rd) were absent.

Chairman Stone (23rd) called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Kennedy (18th) arrived at 5:32 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Beach (21st) was appointed as Ex-Officio for the March 5th Judiciary Committee meeting. A copy of the letter of appointment is attached.

SB 477 (Sen. Kirkpatrick, 32nd, LC 48 0182) Investigation of Family Violence; terminology used in determining whom to arrest; revise.

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

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public.

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Thomas Weaver, private citizen
Major J. Eisner of DeKalb County Police Department
Pete Skandalakis of PAC

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Parent (42nd) who made a motion that **SB 477 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 48 0204S)**. Sen. Strickland (17th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

Sen. Jones (22nd), Sen. Parent (42nd), Sen. Rhett (33rd), Sen. Heath (31st), and Sen. Strickland (17th) voted in favor of the motion.

Committee Recommendation: SB 477 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 48 0204S)

SB 288 (Sen. Anderson, 43rd, LC 41 2171) **Criminal History Record Information; automatic restriction; final disposition other than a conviction; provide.**

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.

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Sen. Tonya Anderson, 43rd

Thomas Weaver, private citizen

Jill Travis of GCDL

Leslie Anderson of Georgia Interfaith Public Policy Center, and Jewish Community Relations Council of ATL.

Brenda Smeeton of GJP

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Strickland (17th) who made a motion that **SB 288 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 28 9712S)**. Sen. Parent (42nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 6-0.

Sen. Jones (22nd), Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Parent (42nd), Sen. Rhett (33rd), Sen. Heath (31st), and Sen. Strickland (17th) voted in favor of the motion.

Committee Recommendation: SB 288 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 28 9712S)

NOTE: Sen. Parent (42nd) left at 5:53 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Parent (42nd) returned at 5:57 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Rhett (33rd) left at 5:58 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Strickland (17th) left at 5:58 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Stone (23rd) recessed the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Stone (23rd) reconvened the meeting at 6:23 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Beach (21st) arrived at 6:23 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Rhett (33rd) returned at 6:23 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Strickland (17th) returned at 6:23 p.m.

SB 423 (Sen. Albers, 56th, LC 49 0134) "Max Gruver Act"; expanded definition of hazing; provide; enact.

The Chair recognized Sen. John Albers (56th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Albers (56th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Parent (42nd) who made a motion that **SB 423 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 41 2458S)**. Sen. Kennedy (18th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 6-0.

Sen. Jones (22nd), Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Parent (42nd), Sen. Rhett (33rd), Sen. Heath (31st), and Sen. Strickland (17th) voted in favor of the motion.

Committee Recommendation: SB 423 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 41 2458S)

NOTE: Sen. Beach (21st) arrived.

SB 464 (Sen. Kennedy, 18th, LC 48 0192) "Georgia Uniform Mediation Act"; uniform laws governing mediation and participants in mediation; provide; enact.

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.

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Hon. Jane Barwick of Georgia Commissioners on Dispute Resolution

Hon. Charles Auslander of Georgia Commissioners on Dispute Resolution

Mary Donovan of Georgia Commissioners on Dispute Resolution

Tracy Johnson of Georgia Office of Dispute Resolution

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Parent (42nd) who made a motion that **SB 464 Do Pass (LC 48 0192)**. Sen. Jones (22nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0.

Sen. Jones (22nd), Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Parent (42nd), Sen. Rhett (33rd), Sen. Heath (31st), Sen. Strickland (17th), and Sen. Beach (21st) voted in favor of the motion.

Committee Recommendation: SB 464 Do Pass (LC 48 0192)

SB 451 (Sen. Kennedy, 18th, LC 41 2398) Deficiencies Connected with Improvements to Realty and Resulting Injuries; actions that may be brought pursuant to Code Section 9-3-51; clarify.

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.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Strickland (17th) who made a motion that **SB 451 Do Pass (LC 2398)**. Sen. Parent (42nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0.

Sen. Jones (22nd), Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Parent (42nd), Sen. Rhett (33rd), Sen. Heath (31st), Sen. Strickland (17th), and Sen. Beach (21st) voted in favor of the motion.

Committee Recommendation: SB 451 Do Pass (LC 41 2398)

SB 453 (Sen. Kennedy, 18th, LC 41 2396) Courts; statutory rules and procedures for the recusal or disqualification of judges of the superior and state courts; 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 to comments from the public.

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Judge Russ McClelland
Bob Bray of the State Court Judge Council
Jill Travis of GCDL
Dee Scarboro of GCDL
Robert Smith of PAC

Testimony in opposition to the bill:

Brandon Peak of Butler, Wooten & Peak LLP

Mike Terry of Bondurant, Mixson & Elmore LLP

Committee Recommendation: SB 453 (LC 41 2396) No action was taken.

SB 452 (Sen. Kennedy, 18th, LC 41 2397) Appellate Practice and Arraignment and Pleas; judgments of conviction entered upon a plea of guilty; withdraw the right of appeal.

The Chair stated that SB 452 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.

The Chair opened the floor to comments from the public.

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Robert Smith of PAC

Committee Recommendation: SB 452 (LC 41 2397) No action was taken.

Chairman Stone (23rd) adjourned the meeting at 7:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Leighton Kennedy, Recording Secretary



OFFICE OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

240 STATE CAPITOL

ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334

GEOFF DUNCAN
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

March 5, 2020

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

Dear Mr. Cook,

In accordance with the Senate Rules, I hereby appoint **Senator Brandon Beach** to serve as an **Ex-Officio** for the Senate Judiciary Committee for **March 5, 2020**.

Sincerely,

Geoff Duncan
Lt. Governor of Georgia

cc: Sen. Brandon Beach, Appointee
Sen. Jesse Stone, Chairman

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Monday, March 9, 2020

The Senate Committee on Judiciary met on Monday, March 9, 2020, at 4:00 p.m., in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building (CLOB). The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Jesse Stone (23rd), Chairman
Sen. Blake Tillery (19th), Secretary
Sen. Bill Heath (31st)
Sen. Harold V. Jones (22nd)
Sen. William Ligon (3rd) (*Arrived Late*) (*Left Early*)
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Michael Rhett (33rd)

NOTE: Sen. Cowser (46th), Sen. Kennedy (18th), and Sen. Strickland (17th) were absent.

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

NOTE: Sen. Ligon (3rd) arrived at 4:18 p.m.

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

SB 485 (Sen. Robertson, 29th, LC 39 2548) Motor Vehicles and Traffic and Ignition Interlock Devices; condition of probation; individuals convicted of a first offense of driving under the influence; require.

The Chair stated that SB 485 would receive a hearing only.

The Chair recognized Sen. Randy Robertson (29th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Robertson (29th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public.

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Frank Harris of MADD
Glynn Birch of MADD
Dr, Ben Nordstrom of Responsibility.org
Omeeka Loggins, Solicitor General
Sandy Wisenbaker, Solicitor General
Jessica Towne of GCDL
Jill Travis of GCDL
Shevondah Leslie of DDS

NOTE: Sen. Ligon left at 4:48 p.m.

Committee Recommendation: SB 485 (LC 39 2548) No action was taken.

SB 414 (Sen. Jones, 22nd, LC 41 2325) Registration of Voters; any person convicted of a felony involving moral turpitude shall not register to, remain registered to or vote; provide.

The Chair stated that SB 414 would receive a hearing only.

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 to comments from the public.

Testimony in favor of the bill:

John Paul Taylor of SPLC Action Fund

Sean Young of ACLU of Georgia

Committee Recommendation: SB 414 (LC 41 2325) No action was taken.

SB 472 (Sen. Williams, 39th, LC 44 1466) Contracts; recovery of voluntary payments; provisions; repeal.

The Chair stated that SB 472 would receive a hearing only.

The Chair recognized Sen. Nikema Williams (39th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Williams (39th) presented the bill to the committee.

The Chair opened the floor to comments from the public.

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Thomas Land, private citizen.

Committee Recommendation: SB 472 (LC 44 1466) No action was taken.

Chairman Stone (23rd) adjourned the meeting at 5:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Leighton Kennedy, Recording Secretary

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Wednesday, June 10, 2020

The Senate Committee on Judiciary met on Wednesday, June 10, 2020, at 10:00 a.m., in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building (CLOB). The following Committee Members were in attendance:

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

NOTE: Sen. Cowsert (46th) and Sen. Tillery (19th) were absent.

Chairman Stone (23rd) called the meeting to order at 10:08 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Ligon (3rd) arrived at 10:09 a.m.

NOTE: Sen. Strickland (17th) arrived at 10:09 a.m.

HB 786 (Rep. Welch, 110th, LC 41 2279S) Superior courts; additional judge of the Flint Judicial Circuit; provide.

The Chair recognized Rep. Andy Welch (110th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Welch (110th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public.

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Judge Gates Peed

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Ligon (3rd) who made a motion that **HB 786 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 48 0216S)**. Sen. Kennedy (18th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0.

Sen. Jones (22nd), Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Ligon (3rd), Sen. Parent (42nd), Sen. Rhett (33rd), Sen. Heath (31st), and Sen. Strickland (17th) voted in favor of the motion.

Committee Recommendation: HB 786 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 48 0216S)

NOTE: Sen. Ligon (3rd) left at 10:33 a.m.

HB 578 (Rep. Dempsey, 13th, LC 33 8292S) Human Services, Department of; review of certain law enforcement conviction data with regard to persons seeking to become volunteers, interns, students, or employees; provide.

The Chair recognized Rep. Katie Dempsey (13th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Dempsey (13th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public.

NOTE: Sen. Ligon (3rd) returned at 10:37 a.m.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Kennedy (18th) who made a motion that **HB 578 Do Pass (LC 33 8292S)**. Sen. Rhett (33rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0.

Sen. Jones (22nd), Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Ligon (3rd), Sen. Parent (42nd), Sen. Rhett (33rd), Sen. Heath (31st), and Sen. Strickland (17th) voted in favor of the motion.

Committee Recommendation: HB 578 Do Pass (LC 33 8292S).

HB 799 (Rep. Blackmon, 146th, LC 28 9488) Motor vehicles; prohibition regarding eligibility of certain violators to receive early reinstatement of their driver's licenses and limited driving permits; repeal.

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

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Strickland (17th) who made a motion that **HB 799 Do Pass (LC 28 9488)**. Sen. Jones (22nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0.

Sen. Jones (22nd), Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Ligon (3rd), Sen. Parent (42nd), Sen. Rhett (33rd), Sen. Heath (31st), and Sen. Strickland (17th) voted in favor of the motion.

Committee Recommendation: HB 799 Do Pass (LC 28 9488)

[HB 538](#) (Rep. Jones, 25th, LC 47 0123ER) Revenue and taxation; all questions of law decided by the Georgia Tax Tribunal be decided without deference to the rules, determinations, or interpretations of the Department of Revenue; require.

The Chair stated that HB 538 would receive a hearing only.

NOTE: There was no presenter present at the meeting.

The Chair opened the floor to comments from the public.

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Marshall Guest of the Metro Chamber
John Feldmen of Eversheds Sutherland, LLP

Testimony in opposition to the bill:

David Curry of the DOR

NOTE: Sen. Heath (31st) left at 11:24 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Heath (31st) returned at 11:28 p.m.

Committee Recommendation: HB 538 (LC 47 0123ER) No action was taken.

[HB 555](#) (Rep. Carpenter, 4th, LC 48 0174S) Criminal procedure; add public child welfare case manager to the people for whom arrest warrants may be issued only by certain judicial officers.

The Chair stated that HB 555 would receive a hearing only.

The Chair recognized Director Tom Rawlings of DFCS for the purpose of presenting the bill. Director Rawlings presented the bill to the committee.

The Chair opened the floor to comments from the public.

Committee Recommendation: HB 555 (LC 48 0174S) No action was taken.

NOTE: Sen. Stone (23rd) recessed the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

NOTE: Sen. Stone (23rd) reconvened the meeting at 12:10 p.m.

HB 911 (Rep. Setzler, 35th, LC 28 9665S) Crimes and offenses; offenses of improper sexual conduct by a foster parent in the first and second degrees; provide.

NOTE: Sen. Ligon (3rd) returned from the break at 12:14 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Parent (42nd) returned from the break at 12:15 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Rhett (33rd) returned from the break at 12:20 p.m.

The Chair stated that HB 911 would receive a hearing only.

The Chair recognized Mrs. Beth Vaughan for the purpose of presenting the bill. Mrs. Vaughan presented the bill to the committee.

The Chair opened the floor to comments from the public.

Committee Recommendation: HB 911 (LC 28 9665S) No action was taken.

HB 969 (Rep. Efstration, 104th, LC 36 4261) Housing; certain provisions pertaining to unlawful practices in selling or renting dwellings and the procedures, remedies, and judicial review related thereto; change.

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 comments from the public.

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Allona Cross of GA Commission on Equal Opportunity

Jonathan Harris of GA Commission on Equal Opportunity

Elizabeth Appley of Georgia ACT Enterprise Partners

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Parent (42nd) who made a motion that **HB 969 Do Pass (LC 36 4261)**. Sen. Rhett (33rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0.

Sen. Jones (22nd), Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Ligon (3rd), Sen. Parent (42nd), Sen. Rhett (33rd), Sen. Heath (31st), and Sen. Strickland (17th) voted in favor of the motion.

Committee Recommendation: HB 969 Do Pass (LC 36 4261)

HB 983 (Rep. Williams, 145th, LC 28 9625) Sexual Offender Registration Review Board; information required to be provided by sexual offenders when they register; revise.

The Chair recognized Rep. Rick Williams (145th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Williams (145th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public.

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Terry Norris of the Georgia Sherriff's Association

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Strickland (17th) who **made a motion** to insert the phrase "but shall be authorized to photograph the sexual offender" on line 410. Sen. Ligon (3rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0.

The Chair indicated his preference that the adopted amendment be included in a perfected committee substitute.

The Chair recognized Sen. Strickland (17th) who **made a motion** that **HB 983 Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Kennedy (18th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0.

Sen. Jones (22nd), Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Ligon (3rd), Sen. Parent (42nd), Sen. Rhett (33rd), Sen. Heath (31st), and Sen. Strickland (17th) voted in favor of the motion.

Committee Recommendation: HB 983 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 41 2552S)

HB 984 (Rep. Burchett, 176th, LC 28 9675S) Criminal procedure; sentencing; change provisions.

The Chair stated that HB 984 would receive a hearing only.

The Chair recognized Rep. James Burchett (176th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Burchett (176th) presented the bill to the committee.

The Chair opened the floor to comments from the public.

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Jill Travis of GCDL

Committee Recommendation: HB 984 (LC 28 9675S) No action was taken.

Chairman Stone (23rd) adjourned the meeting at 12:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Leighton Kennedy, Recording Secretary

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Wednesday, June 17, 2020

The Senate Committee on Judiciary met on Wednesday, June 17, 2020, at 4:00 p.m., in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building (CLOB). The following Committee 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. John Kennedy (18th)
Sen. William Ligon (3rd) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd)
Sen. Michael Rhett (33rd)
Sen. Brian Strickland (17th)

NOTE: Sen. Jones (22nd) was absent.

Chairman Stone (23rd) called the meeting to order at 4:54 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Cowsert (46th) arrived at 4:58 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Ligon (3rd) arrived at 4:58 p.m.

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

[HB 912](#) (Rep. Reeves, 34th, LC 33 8213) Social services; authorize foster parents to arrange for short-term babysitting.

The Chair recognized Rep. Bert Reeves (34th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Reeves (34th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public.

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Tom Rawlings of DFCS

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Strickland (17th) who made a motion that **HB 912 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 33 8394-ECS)**. Sen. Parent (42nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 8-0.

Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Ligon (3rd), Sen. Parent (42nd), Sen. Rhett (33rd), Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Tillery (19th), Sen. Heath (31st), and Sen. Strickland (17th) voted in favor of the motion.

Committee Recommendation: HB 912 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 33 8394-ECS).

HB 555 (Rep. Carpenter, 4th, LC 48 0174S) Criminal procedure; add public child welfare case manager to the people for whom arrest warrants may be issued only by certain judicial officers.

The Chair recognized Rep. Kasey Carpenter (4th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Carpenter (4th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Rhett (33rd) who made a motion that **HB 555 Do Pass (LC 48 0174S)**. Sen. Kennedy (18th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 8-0.

Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Ligon (3rd), Sen. Parent (42nd), Sen. Rhett (33rd), Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Tillery (19th), Sen. Heath (31st), and Sen. Strickland (17th) voted in favor of the motion.

Committee Recommendation: HB 555 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 48 0174S)

HB 865 (Rep. Scoggins, 14th, LC 41 2455S) Wills, trusts, and administration of estates; Revised Probate Code of 1998; revise and update provisions.

The Chair recognized Mr. Kyle King for the purpose of presenting the bill. Mr. King presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public.

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Nick Djunic of the State Bar

Rusty Sewell of the State Bar

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Kennedy (18th) who made a motion that **HB 865 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 41 2549S)**. Sen. Strickland (17th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 8-0.

Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Ligon (3rd), Sen. Parent (42nd), Sen. Rhett (33rd), Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Tillery (19th), Sen. Heath (31st), and Sen. Strickland (17th) voted in favor of the motion.

Committee Recommendation: HB 865 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 41 2549S).

Chairman Stone (23rd) adjourned the meeting at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Leighton Kennedy, Recording Secretary

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Thursday, June 18, 2020

The Senate Committee on Judiciary met on Thursday, June 18, 2020, at 7:00 p.m., in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building (CLOB). The following Committee Members were in attendance:

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

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

Chairman Stone (23rd) called the meeting to order at 7:39 p.m.

[HB 984](#) (Rep. Burchett, 176th, LC 28 9675S) Criminal procedure; sentencing; change provisions.

The Chair recognized Rep. James Burchett (176th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Burchett (176th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public.

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Mazie Lynn Causey of Ga Assoc. of Criminal Defense Lawyers
Pete Skandalakis of PAC

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Parent (42nd) who made a motion that **HB 984 Do Pass (LC 28 9675S)**. Sen. Kennedy (18th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 8-0.

Sen. Jones (22nd), Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Ligon (3rd), Sen. Parent (42nd), Sen. Rhett (33rd), Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Heath (31st), and Sen. Strickland (17th) voted in favor of the motion.

Committee Recommendation: HB 984 Do Pass (LC 28 9675S).

HB 426 (Rep. Efstration, 104th, LC 47 0124S) Criminal procedure; imposition of punishment for crimes involving bias or prejudice; revise criteria.

The Chair stated that HB 426 would receive a hearing only.

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 to comments from the public.

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Rev. James Woodall of NAACP

Allison Padilla Goodman of ADL

Carol Maddox of Ga Interfaith Public Policy Center

Rabbi Lydia Medwin

Audrey Benson of Maura's Voice

Jeff Graham of Ga Equality

General Sam Olens of ADL

Rabbi Michael Bernstein

Leslie Anderson of the Jewish Community Relations Council

Pete Skandalakis of PAC

Testimony in opposition of the bill:

Thomas Weaver, private citizen

Cole Nuzio of Family Policy

Committee Recommendation: HB 426 (LC 47 0124S) No action was taken.

Chairman Stone (23rd) adjourned the meeting at 9:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Leighton Kennedy, Recording Secretary

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Friday, June 19, 2020

The Senate Committee on Judiciary met on Friday, June 19, 2020, at 4:00 p.m., in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building (CLOB). The following Committee 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 (22nd) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. John Kennedy (18th)
Sen. William Ligon (3rd)
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd)
Sen. Michael Rhett (33rd)
Sen. Brian Strickland (17th)

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

Chairman Stone (23rd) called the meeting to order at 4:46 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Jones (22nd) arrived at 4:47 p.m.

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

[HB 1003](#) (Rep. Burns, 159th, LC 41 2383) Ogeechee Judicial Circuit; provide additional judge of the superior courts.

The Chair presented a proposed substitute to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public.

Testimony in favor of the bill:
Judge Walter Davis

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Strickland (17th) who made a motion that **HB 1003 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 48 0228S)**. Sen. Kennedy (18th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 8-0.

Sen. Jones (22nd), Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Ligon (3rd), Sen. Parent (42nd), Sen. Rhett (33rd), Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Heath (31st), and Sen. Strickland (17th) voted in favor of the motion.

Committee Recommendation: HB 1003 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 48 0228S)

HB 993 (Rep. Dempsey, 13th, LC 33 8214) Health; vital records reports and data from the state registrar relating to child abuse reports; provide.

The Chair recognized Rep. Katie Dempsey (13th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Dempsey (13th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public.

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Director Tom Rawlings of DFCS

Pete Skandalakis of PAC

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

NOTE: Sen. Ligon (3rd) left at 5:00 p.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Kennedy (18th) who made a motion that **HB 993 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 33 8402S)**. Sen. Rhett (33rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0.

Sen. Jones (22nd), Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Parent (42nd), Sen. Rhett (33rd), Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Heath (31st), and Sen. Strickland (17th) voted in favor of the motion.

NOTE: Sen. Ligon (3rd) returned at 5:06 p.m.

Committee Recommendation: HB 993 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 33 8402S)

HB 911 (Rep. Setzler, 35th, LC 28 9665S) Crimes and offenses; offenses of improper sexual conduct by a foster parent in the first and second degrees; provide.

The Chair recognized Rep. Ed Setzler (35th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Setzler (35th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Strickland (17th) who made a motion that **HB 911 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 28 9665S)**. Sen. Ligon (3rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 8-0.

Sen. Jones (22nd), Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Ligon (3rd), Sen. Parent (42nd), Sen. Rhett (33rd), Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Heath (31st), and Sen. Strickland (17th) voted in favor of the motion.

Committee Recommendation: HB 911 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 28 9665S)

HB 426 (Rep. Efstrotation, 104th, LC 28 9829S) Criminal procedure; imposition of punishment for crimes involving bias or prejudice; revise criteria.

The Chair recognized Sen. Cowsert (46th) for the purpose of presenting a proposed substitute. Sen. Cowsert (46th) presented the proposed substitute to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public.

Testimony in favor of the bill:

David Emadi of the State Ethics Commission

Mazie Lynn Causey of GCDL

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Parent (42nd) who **made a motion** to remove the protection of first responders from the bill. Sen. Jones (22nd) seconded the motion. The motion failed by a vote of 3-5.

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

Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Ligon (3rd), Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Heath (31st), and Sen. Strickland (17th) voted against the motion.

The Chair recognized Sen. Strickland (17th) who made a motion that **HB 426 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 28 9829S)**. Sen. Kennedy (17th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 5-3.

Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Ligon (3rd), Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Heath (31st), and Sen. Strickland (17th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Jones (22nd), Sen. Parent (42nd), and Sen. Rhett (33rd) voted against the motion.

Committee Recommendation: HB 426 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 28 9829S)

Chairman Stone (23rd) adjourned the meeting at 6:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Leighton Kennedy, Recording Secretary

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Tuesday, July 28, 2020

The Senate Committee on Judiciary met on Tuesday, July 28, 2020, at 2:30 p.m., in Room 341 of the State Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Jesse Stone (23rd), Chairman
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Vice-Chairman (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Bill Heath (31st)
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Michael Rhett (33rd) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Brian Strickland (17th)
Sen. Jennifer Jordan (6th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Zahra Karinshak (48th), Ex-Officio
Sen. John Albers (56th), Ex-Officio (*Left Early*)
Sen. P. K. Martin (9th), Ex-Officio (*Left Early*)

NOTE: Sen. Tillery (19th), Sen. Jones (22nd), Sen. Kennedy (18th), and Sen. Ligon (3rd) were absent.

NOTE: Sen. Albers (56th), Sen. Jordan (6th), Sen. Karinshak (48th), and Sen. Martin (9th) were appointed to serve as Ex-Officio Members of the Judiciary Committee for the meeting held on July 28, 2020. A copy of each letter of appointment is attached.

Chairman Stone (23rd) called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

Chairman Stone (23rd) introduced the committee to Angie Davis, the Governor's appointee for Clerk of the Georgia Statewide Business Court.

NOTE: Sen. Cowsert (46th) arrived 2:32 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Rhett (33rd) arrived at 2:34 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Parent (42nd) arrived at 2:36 p.m.

Testimony in favor of Angie Davis:

Judge Walt Davis
Sam Olens, of Denton's
Javier Pico-Prats, of the Governor's Office
Angie Davis, the Governor's Appointee

The Chair opened the floor for debate and questions

The Chair recognized Sen. P. K. Martin (9th) who made a motion that the Committee **confirm the Governor's appointment of Angie Davis** as Clerk for the Georgia Statewide Business Court. Sen. Albers (56th) seconded the motion. Angie Davis was confirmed, unanimously, by a vote of 9-0.

Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Heath (31st), Sen. Parent (42nd), Sen. Rhett (33rd), Sen. Strickland (17th), Sen. Jordan (6th), Sen. Karinshak (48th), Sen. Albers (56th), and Sen. Martin (9th) voted in favor of the motion.

NOTE: Sen. Albers (56th) left at 2:47 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Martin (9th) left at 2:47 p.m.

Chairman Stone (23rd) adjourned the meeting at 3:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Leighton Kennedy, Recording Secretary



OFFICE OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

240 STATE CAPITOL ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334

GEOFF DUNCAN
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

July 28, 2020

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

Dear Mr. Cook,

In accordance with the Senate Rules, I hereby appoint **Senator John Albers** to serve as an **ExOfficio** for the Senate Judiciary Committee on **July 28, 2020**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Geoff Duncan", enclosed in a light gray rectangular box.

Geoff Duncan
Lieutenant Governor

cc: Senator Jesse Stone, Chairman



OFFICE OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

240 STATE CAPITOL ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334

GEOFF DUNCAN
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

July 28, 2020

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

Dear Mr. Cook,

In accordance with the Senate Rules, I hereby appoint **Senator Jen Jordan** to serve as an **ExOfficio** for the Senate Judiciary Committee on **July 28, 2020**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Geoff Duncan", enclosed in a light gray rectangular box.

Geoff Duncan
Lieutenant Governor

cc: Senator Jesse Stone, Chairman



OFFICE OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

240 STATE CAPITOL ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334

GEOFF DUNCAN
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

July 28, 2020

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

Dear Mr. Cook,

In accordance with the Senate Rules, I hereby appoint **Senator Zahra Karinshak** to serve as an **Ex-Officio** for the Senate Judiciary Committee on **July 28, 2020**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Geoff Duncan", enclosed in a light gray rectangular box.

Geoff Duncan
Lieutenant Governor

cc: Senator Jesse Stone, Chairman



OFFICE OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

240 STATE CAPITOL ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334

GEOFF DUNCAN
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

July 28, 2020

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

Dear Mr. Cook,

In accordance with the Senate Rules, I hereby appoint **Senator P.K. Martin** to serve as an **ExOfficio** for the Senate Judiciary Committee on **July 28, 2020**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Geoff Duncan", enclosed in a light gray rectangular box.

Geoff Duncan
Lieutenant Governor

Senator Jesse Stone
District 23

827 North Liberty Street
Waynesboro, GA 30830
Tel (706) 554-5223

325 -A Legislative Office Building
18 Capitol Square, SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30034
Tel (404) 463-1314
E-mail: Jesse.Stone@senate.ga.gov



The State Senate
Atlanta, GA 30334

November 19, 2020

COMMITTEES:

Chairman, Judiciary
Appropriations
Banking and Financial Institutions
Education and Youth
Ethics

VIA EMAIL ONLY

William@attorneyligon.com

William.ligon@senate.ga.gov

William Ligon

RE: Election Law Study Sub-Committee of the Standing Senate Judiciary Committee

Dear William:

You have requested that I authorize convening of a Sub-Committee of the Standing Senate Judiciary Committee for the purpose of studying Georgia's election laws as they have impacted and are impacting the current election cycle. It is my understanding that the Rules of the Senate, the Judiciary Committee Rules, Senate Resolution 7, and other applicable law authorize such meetings.

You have previously chaired one of Judiciary's two subcommittees, and so I am requesting that you convene a subcommittee. I am further requesting that the following Judiciary Committee members attend:

Senators Tillery, Cowsert, Kennedy, Parent, and Rhett.

I would like to have confirmation of who will attend. Other Judiciary members may attend, schedules permitting. Please work with members' schedules to maximize attendance, keeping in mind the urgency of the matter. Keep me posted as to the scheduling of all meetings. You will be responsible for all noticing.

If other standing committees, Senate or House, are planning similar study sessions, I encourage you to cooperate and coordinate in order to avoid duplication of effort and to minimize the burden on likely witnesses. Attendance of witnesses should be by invitation – do not seek to compel by subpoena. I have already ascertained from its chair that Senate Ethics, the committee often tasked with election matters, will probably not be meeting.

While it may not be required for the subcommittee study meetings to be open to the public, it is my preference that the meetings be held openly, and if practicable, live streamed.

*Serving Burke, Glascock, Jefferson, Jenkins, Johnson, McDuffie, Screven, and Warren counties
and portions of Columbia, Emanuel and Richmond counties.*

Page Two – November 19, 2020

William Ligon

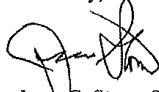
RE: Election Law Study Sub-Committee of the Standing Senate Judiciary Committee

You may call upon my administrative assistant, Leighton Kennedy (404-463-2284; leighton.kennedy@senate.ga.gov), and others, to help in making arrangements. Julius Tolbert is the legislative counselor assigned to Judiciary. You may also want to consult with Jeff Lanier because of his expertise in the area of elections law.

The object of this study will be to examine the recent election cycle, recount, audit, investigations, and litigation as well as the upcoming runoffs. It is important to learn from recent experience what works and what needs improving. Please encourage the airing of all viewpoints and the stimulation of ideas for use by executive agencies in the coming weeks. Keep in mind the upcoming Session of the General Assembly and the need for legislation that could help improve elections in Georgia.

As you know, this is a study, and no official action can be taken. It is not necessary to issue a formal report as that would possibly slow down the stimulation and dissemination of useful ideas.

Sincerely,



Jesse C. Stone, 23d
Chairman

cc: Leighton Kennedy
Via email only leighton.kennedy@senate.ga.gov