

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE ENVIRONMENT
2021 ROSTER**

Sen. Tyler Harper, Chairman

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

Sen. Russ Goodman

District 8
9677 Frank S. Sessoms Memorial Highway
Homerville, GA 31634

Sen. Sheila McNeill, Vice-Chairwoman

District 3
303-B CLOB
Atlanta, GA 30334

Sen. Marty Harbin

District 16
215 Greencastle Road
Tyrone, GA 30290

Sen. Lindsey Tippins, Secretary

District 37
139 Midway Road
Marietta, GA 30064

Sen. Sally Harrell

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

Sen. Matt Brass, Ex-Officio

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

Sen. Kim Jackson

District 41
P.O. Box 1411
Pine Lake, GA 30072

Sen. Gail Davenport

District 44
P.O. Box 1074
Jonesboro, GA 30237

Sen. Nikki Merritt

District 9
1911 Grayson Highway, Suite 8367
Grayson, GA 30017

Sen. Frank Ginn, Ex-Officio

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

Sen. Freddie Powell Sims

District 12
5377 Goose Hollow Road
Dawson, GA 31742

Sen. Steve Gooch, Ex-Officio

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

SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE ENVIRONMENT
2021-2022 RULES

1. A quorum of the Committee shall be Six (6) members.
2. The Committee shall convene, recess and adjourn upon the order of the Chairman.
3. The Chairman shall have the authority to determine which bills and resolutions are to be considered and the order in which said measures are considered; the Chairman shall have the authority to call a bill, resolution, substitute, or amendment for debate and explanation only.
4. The Chairman 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 time as shall be designated by the Chairman.
5. A bill, resolution, or other matter will be considered only after the presentation by its principal author or a legislator whom he or she designates to do so. The principal author shall be the legislator whose name appears first on the list of authors.
6. The Chairman reserves the right to delay action on substitutes and amendments not provided to the Chairman at least 24 hours prior to the hearing.
7. Any member or members of the Committee who disagree(s) with the majority report of the Committee shall be privileged to file a minority report in writing, setting forth concise reasons for their dissent.
8. Any individual wishing to video a meeting may ONLY set up video equipment in an approved location by the Chairman and only in so much as it does not disrupt or distract from the meeting.
9. These rules may be amended upon a motion duly made and subsequently approved by two-thirds of the members of the Committee, in a meeting called by the Chairman, provided that written notice has been given to the Committee 48 hours prior to the Committee meeting.
10. The Rules of the Senate shall govern on all matters not addressed by these Committee rules.

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and the Environment
Wednesday, February 17, 2021**

The Senate Committee on Natural Resources and the Environment met on Wednesday, February 17, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Tyler Harper (7th), Chairman
Sen. Sheila McNeill (3rd), Vice-Chairwoman
Sen. Matt Brass (28th), Ex-Officio (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Gail Davenport (44th)
Sen. Frank Ginn (47th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Ex-Officio (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Russ Goodman (8th)
Sen. Marty Harbin (16th)
Sen. Sally Harrell (40th)
Sen. Kim Jackson (41st)
Sen. Nikki Merritt (9th)

NOTE: Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th) and Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th) were not in attendance.

Chairman Harper (7th) called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Brass (28th) and Sen. Gooch (51st) arrived at 1:08 pm

SB 119 (Sen. Harper, 7th, LC 44 1600) Permit Required for Burning Woods, Lands, and Marshes or Other Flammable Vegetation; except certain yard waste from permitting

The Chair presented the bill to the Committee

The Chair opened the floor for debate.

The Chair recognized Sen. Ginn (47th) who made a motion that **SB 119 Do Pass by Committee Substitute**. Sen. Goodman (8th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair recognized Sen. Harbin (16th) who made a motion to **Amend** Line 21 by striking out “the hours of 9:00am” and replace with “the official sunrise”. Brass (28th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SB 119 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 44 1672S)

Chairman Harper (7th) adjourned the meeting at 1:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Tyler Harper (7th), Chairman

/s/ Emily Doppel, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and the Environment
Wednesday, February 24, 2021**

The Senate Committee on Natural Resources and the Environment met on Wednesday, February 24, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Tyler Harper (7th), Chairman
Sen. Sheila McNeill (3rd), Vice-Chairwoman
Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th), Secretary
Sen. Matt Brass (28th), Ex-Officio (*Arrived Late*) (*Left Early*)
Sen. Gail Davenport (44th) (*Arrived Late*) (*Left Early*)
Sen. Frank Ginn (47th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Ex-Officio (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Russ Goodman (8th)
Sen. Marty Harbin (16th) (*Left Early*)
Sen. Sally Harrell (40th)
Sen. Kim Jackson (41st)
Sen. Nikki Merritt (9th)
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th) (*Arrived Late*) (*Left Early*)

Chairman Harper (7th) called the meeting to order at 1: 33 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Brass (28th) arrived at 1:34 p.m.

SB 94 (Sen. Ginn, 47th, LC 44 1608) Rivers and River Basins; dam safety; building of structures capable of being occupied in the inundation zone of a category II dam; prohibit

The Chair stated that SB 94 would receive a hearing only.

The Chair recognized Sen. Ginn (47th) to present the bill. Sen Ginn (47th) presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Davenport (44th) arrived at 1:39 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Sims (12th) arrived at 1:43 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Gooch (51st) arrived at 1: 52 p.m.

The Chair opened the floor to debate.

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

Testimony in favor of the Bill:

None

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:

Rena Ann Peck, Georgia River Network

Mark P. Ogden, Association of State Dam Safety Officials

NOTE: Sen. Davenport (44th) and Sen. Sims (12th) leave at 2:12 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Brass (28th) leaves at 2:13 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Davenport (44th) returned at 2:18 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Merritt (9th) and Sen. Harbin (16th) leave at 2:19 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Davenport (44th) leaves at 2:21 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Merritt (9th) returned at 2:27 p.m.

Committee Recommendation: SB 94 (LC 44 1608) No action taken

Chairman Harper (7th) adjourned the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th), Secretary

/s/ Emily Doppel, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and the Environment
Tuesday, March 2nd, 2021**

The Senate Committee on Natural Resources and the Environment met on Tuesday, March 2nd, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 450 of the State Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Tyler Harper (7th), Chairman
Sen. Sheila McNeill (3rd), Vice-Chairwoman
Sen. Gail Davenport (44th)
Sen. Frank Ginn (47th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Russ Goodman (8th)
Sen. Marty Harbin (16th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Sally Harrell (40th)
Sen. Kim Jackson (41st)
Sen. Nikki Merritt (9th)
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th)

NOTE: Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th), Sen. Matt Brass (28th), and Sen. Steve Gooch (51st) were not in attendance.

Chairman Harper (7th) called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m.

SB 258 (Sen. Harper, 7th, LC 44 1679) Certification of Operators of Water or Wastewater Treatment Plants; registration fee for board approved continuing education providers; provide

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. He recognized the following:

Testimony in favor of the Bill:

Josh Macky, Cobb EMC and Gas South

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:

None

The Chair recognized Sen. Ginn (47th) who made a motion that **SB 258 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 44 1709S)**. Sen. Jackson (41st) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SB 258 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 44 1709S)

SB 260 (Sen. Harper, 7th, LC 44 1690) Soil Amendments; exclude from regulation.

The Chair presented the bill and proposed substitute to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Harbin (16th) arrived at 10:16

The Chair opened the floor to debate.

The Chair recognized Sen. Ginn (47th) who made a motion that **SB 260 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 44 1710S)**. Sen. Goodman (8th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SB 260 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 44 1710S)

Chairman Harper (7th) adjourned the meeting at 10:33 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Tyler Harper (7th), Chairman

/s/ Emily Doppel, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and the Environment
Wednesday, March 10th, 2021**

The Senate Committee on Natural Resources and the Environment met on Wednesday, March 10th, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Tyler Harper (7th), Chairman
Sen. Sheila McNeill (3rd), Vice Chairwoman
Sen. Matt Brass (28th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Gail Davenport (44th)
Sen. Frank Ginn (47th), Ex-Officio (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Ex-Officio
Sen. Russ Goodman (8th)
Sen. Sally Harrell (40th)
Sen. Kim Jackson (41st)
Sen. Nikki Merritt (9th)
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th)

NOTE: Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th) and Sen. Marty Harbin (16th) were absent.

Chairman Harper (7th) called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Ginn (47th) arrived late at 1:05 p.m.

[HB 362](#) (Rep. Rhodes, 120th, LC 44 1648S) Environmental Protection Division; effective date for standards, rules, and regulations; revise.

The Chair recognized Rep. Trey Rhodes (120th) to present the bill. Rep. Rhodes (120th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair recognized Sen. Gooch (51st) who made a motion that **HB 362 Do Pass (LC 44 1648S)**. Sen. Ginn (47th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: HB 362 DO PASS (LC 44 1648S)

[HB 355](#) (Rep. Wiedower, 119th, LC 44 1612ER) Georgia Carbon Sequestration Registry; inclusion of building products in construction; provisions.

The Chair recognized Rep. Marcus Wiedower (119th) to present the bill. Rep. Wiedower (119th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair recognizes Sen. Gooch (51st) who made a motion that **HB 355 Do Pass (LC 44 1612ER)**. Sen. Ginn (47th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: HB 355 DO PASS (LC 44 1612ER)

Chairman Harper (7th) adjourned the meeting at 1:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Tyler Harper (7th), Chairman

/s/ Emily Doppel, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and the Environment
Wednesday, March 17, 2021**

The Senate Committee on Natural Resources and the Environment met on Wednesday, March 17, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Sheila McNeill (3rd), Vice-Chairwoman
Sen. Gail Davenport (44th)
Sen. Russ Goodman (8th)
Sen. Marty Harbin (16th)
Sen. Sally Harrell (40th)
Sen. Kim Jackson (41st)
Sen. Nikki Merritt (9th)
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th) (*Arrived Late*)

NOTE: Sen. Tyler Harper (7th), Lindsey Tippins (37th), Sen. Matt Brass (28th), Sen. Frank Ginn (47th), and Sen. Steve Gooch (51st) were absent.

Vice-Chairwoman McNeill (3rd) called the meeting to order at 1:23 p.m.

[HR 183](#) (Rep. Knight, 130th, LC 44 1652) Congress; pass Recovering America's Wildlife Act; urge

The Chair recognized Rep. David Knight (130th) for the purpose of presenting the resolution. Rep. Knight (130th) presented the resolution to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Sims (12th) arrived late at 1:25 p.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Jackson (41st) who made a motion that **HR 183 Do Pass (LC 44 1652)**. Sen. Merritt (9th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: HR 183 DO PASS (LC 44 1652)

Vice-Chairwoman McNeill (3rd) adjourned the meeting at 1:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Sheila McNeill (3rd), Vice-Chairwoman

/s/ Emily Doppel, Recording Secretary

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Senator Tyler Harper
District 7

COMMITTEES:

Natural Resources and the Environment, Chairman
Public Safety, Vice-Chairman
Agriculture and Consumer Affairs
Appropriations
Rules

APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEES:

Criminal Justice & Public Safety
Agriculture and Natural Resources

SPECIAL APPOINTMENTS:

Agricultural Exposition Authority Overview Committee
Georgia Music Hall of Fame
Joint High School Athletic Overview Committee
Jekyll Island Authority Overview Committee

March 17, 2021

Mr. David A. Cook
Secretary of the Senate
353 State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30034

Dear Mr. Cook,

I have authorized Senator Sheila McNeill, Vice-Chair of the Natural Resources and the Environment Committee, to preside in the capacity and authority of Chairman in my absence from the Committee meeting being held Wednesday, March 17, 2021 in 307 CLOB at 1:00 pm.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tyler Harper".

Tyler Harper

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and the Environment
Wednesday, March 24th, 2021**

The Senate Committee on Natural Resources and the Environment met on Wednesday, March 24th, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. in Room 310 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Tyler Harper (7th), Chairman
Sen. Sheila McNeill (3rd), Vice Chairwoman
Sen. Lindsey Tippins, Secretary
Sen. Matt Brass (28th), Ex-Officio (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Gail Davenport (44th)
Sen. Frank Ginn (47th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Ex-Officio (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Russ Goodman (8th)
Sen. Marty Harbin (16th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Sally Harrell (40th)
Sen. Kim Jackson (41st)
Sen. Nikki Merritt (9th)
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th)

Chairman Harper (7th) called the meeting to order at 9:39 a.m.

[HB 647](#) (Rep. Smith, 133rd, LC 44 1700S) Solid waste management; post-closure ground-water monitoring at closed coal combustion residual impoundments; provide.

The Chair recognized Rep. Vance Smith (133rd) to present the bill. Rep. Smith (133rd) presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Gooch (51st) arrived at 9:43 a.m.

The Chair opened the floor to debate and amendment.

Sen. Jackson (41st) offered an amendment.

NOTE: Sen. Harbin (16th) arrived at 9:53 a.m.

NOTE: Sen. Brass (28th) arrived at 9:57 a.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Gooch (51st) who made a motion that **HB 647 be tabled (LC 44 1700S)**. Sen. Merritt (9th) seconded the motion. The motion passed 8-3.

Sen. Sims (12th), Sen. Harrell (40th), Sen. Jackson (41st), Sen. Merritt (9th), Sen. McNeill (3rd), Sen. Ginn (47th), Sen. Davenport (44th), and Sen. Harbin (16th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Brass (28th), Sen. Tippins (37th), and Sen. Goodman (8th) voted against the motion.

Committee Recommendation: HB 647 Tabled in Committee (LC 44 1700S)

Chairman Harper (7th) adjourned the meeting at 9:59 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th), Secretary

/s/ Emily Doppel, Recording Secretary