

**THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
2021 ROSTER**

Sen. Brian Strickland, Chairman
District 17
P.O. Box 1895
McDonough, GA 30253

Sen. Bill Cowsert, Vice-Chairman
District 46
P.O. Box 512
Athens, GA 30603

Sen. John Kennedy, Secretary
District 18
231 Riverside Drive
Macon, GA 31201

Sen. Blake Tillery
District 19
404 Durden Street
Vidalia, GA 30474

Sen. Harold Jones, II
District 22
437 Walker Street
Augusta, GA 30901

Sen. Michael “Doc” Rhett
District 33
P.O. Box 777
Marietta, GA 30061

Sen. Ben Watson
District 1
1326 Eisenhower Drive #2
Savannah, GA 31406

Sen. Bo Hatchett
District 50
P.O. Box 2706
Clarkesville, GA 30523

Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick
District 32
2146 Roswell Road Suite 108895
Marietta, GA 30062

Sen. Elena Parent
District 42
1250 Oakdale Road NE
Atlanta, GA 30307

**THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
2021-2022 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
Wednesday, January 27, 2021

The Senate Committee on Judiciary met on Wednesday, January 27, 2021 at 4:45 p.m., in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building (CLOB). The following Committee Members were in attendance.

Sen. Brian Strickland (17th), Chairman
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. John Kennedy (18th), Secretary (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Blake Tillery (19th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Harold Jones II (22nd) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Michael “Doc” Rhett (33rd) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Ben Watson (1st)
Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th)
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd)
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd)

Chairman Strickland (17th) called the meeting to order at 4:47 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Michael “Doc” Rhett (33rd) arrived at 4:49 p.m.

The Chairman introduced himself and members of the Committee. The Rules of the Committee were discussed. Sen. Cowsert (46th) made a motion to adopt the Committee Rules for the 2021-2022 Biennium. Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (6-0). A copy of the Rules is attached to these minutes.

NOTE: Sen. Harold Jones II (22nd) arrived late at 4:51 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. John Kennedy (18th) arrived late at 4:54 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Blake Tillery (19th) arrived late at 4:56 p.m.

SB 9 (Sen. Anderson, 24th, LC 41 2749) Courts; the Columbia Judicial Circuit and to be composed of Columbia County; create a new judicial circuit for the State of Georgia

The Chair recognized Sen. Lee Anderson (24th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Anderson (24th) 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. Watson (1st) who made a motion that **SB 9 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 41 2802S)**. Sen. Kennedy (18th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 7-2.

Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Hatchett (50th), Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd), Sen. Rhett (33rd), Sen. Tillery (19th), and Sen. Watson (1st) voted in favor of the motion. Sen. Jones (22nd) and Sen. Parent (42nd) voted against the motion.

Committee Recommendation: SB 9 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 41 2802S).

Chairman Strickland (17th) adjourned the meeting at 5:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Brian Strickland (17th), Chairman

/s/ Natalie Murphey, Recording Secretary

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Monday, February 3, 2021

The Senate Committee on Judiciary met on Monday, February 3, 2021 at 4:45 p.m., in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building (CLOB). The following Committee Members were in attendance.

Sen. Brian Strickland (17th), Chairman
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. John Kennedy (18th), Secretary
Sen. Blake Tillery (19th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Harold Jones II (22nd) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Michael “Doc” Rhett (33rd) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Ben Watson (1st)
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd)
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd)

NOTE: Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th) was absent.

Chairman Strickland (17th) called the meeting to order at 4:47 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Rhett (33rd) arrived at 4:49 p.m.

[SB 32](#) (Sen. Brass, 28th, LC 36 4492) Public Disclosure; certain personal records of state and federal employees; exempt

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. Cowsert (46th) who made a motion that **SB 32 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 36 4581S)** Sen. Kennedy (18th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (6-0).

Committee Recommendation: SB 32 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 36 4581S).

NOTE: Sen. Jones II (22nd) arrived at 4:55 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Tillery (19th) arrived at 5:01 p.m.

[SB 54](#) (Sen. Harbison, 15th, LC 41 2782) Child Custody Proceedings; judicial discretion in determining the right of a surviving parent; when such surviving parent is criminally charged with the murder or voluntary manslaughter of the other parent; provide

The Chair stated that SB 54 would receive a hearing only.

The Chair recognized Sen. Ed Harbison (15th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Harbison (15th) 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.

Committee Recommendation: SB 54 (LC 41 2782) No action was taken.

Chairman Strickland (17th) adjourned the meeting at 5:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Natalie Murphey, Recording Secretary

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Monday, February 8, 2021

The Senate Committee on Judiciary met on Monday, February 8, 2021 at 3:30 p.m., in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building (CLOB). The following Committee Members were in attendance.

Sen. Brian Strickland (17th), Chairman
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Vice-Chairman (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. John Kennedy (18th), Secretary
Sen. Harold Jones II (22nd)
Sen. Michael “Doc” Rhett (33rd) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Ben Watson (1st)
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd)
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd)

NOTE: Sen. Hatchett (50th) and Sen. Tillery (19th) were absent.

Chairman Strickland (17th) called the meeting to order at 3:34 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Rhett (33rd) arrived at 3:35 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Cowsert (46th) arrived at 3:41 p.m.

SB 33 (Sen. Dixon, 45th, LC 41 2797-EC) Torts; cause of action against perpetrators for victims of human trafficking; provide

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

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public.

Testimony in favor of the bill:
John Melvin of the GBI

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Watson (1st) who made a motion that **SB 33 Do Pass (LC 41 2797-EC)** Sen. Parent (42nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Committee Recommendation: SB 33 Do Pass (LC 41 2797-EC).

SB 34 (Sen. Dixon, 45th, LC 41 2682-EC) Domestic Relations; name change; victims of human trafficking may petition; provide

The Chair recognized Sen. Dixon (45th) for the purpose of presenting the bill.
Sen. Dixon (45th) 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. Kirkpatrick (32nd) who made a motion that **SB 34 Do Pass (LC 41 2682-EC)** Sen. Rhett (33rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Committee Recommendation: SB 34 Do Pass (LC 41 2682-EC).

Chairman Strickland (17th) adjourned the meeting at 4:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Natalie Murphey, Recording Secretary

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Wednesday, February 17, 2021

The Senate Committee on Judiciary met on Wednesday, February 17, 2021 at 4:45 p.m., in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building (CLOB). The following Committee Members were in attendance.

Sen. Brian Strickland (17th), Chairman
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Vice-Chairman (*Left Early*)
Sen. John Kennedy (18th), Secretary
Sen. Harold Jones II (22nd)
Sen. Michael “Doc” Rhett (33rd)
Sen. Ben Watson (1st) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th)
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd) (*Arrived Late*)

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

Chairman Strickland (17th) called the meeting to order at 4:51 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Parent (42nd) arrived at 4:57 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) arrived at 4:59 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Watson (1st) arrived at 5:00 p.m.

SB 28 (Sen. Hatchett, 50th, LC 33 8495-EC) Juvenile Code and Domestic Relations; provisions relating to the protection of children; strengthen, clarify and update

The Chair recognized Sen. Hatchett (50th) for the purpose of presenting the bill.
Sen. Hatchett (50th) 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 DFACS

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Jones (22nd) who made a motion that **SB 28 Do Pass (LC 33 8495-EC)** Sen. Rhett (33rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

Committee Recommendation: SB 28 Do Pass (LC 33 8495-EC).

SB 75 (Sen. Jackson, 41st, LC 48 0296) Termination of Residential Lease; victims of stalking; provide

The Chair recognized Sen. Kim Jackson (41st) for the purpose of presenting the bill.

Sen. Jackson (41st) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public.

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Nikki Lemeska of Georgia Community on Family Violence

Marina Peed of Mosaic

Haydon Stanley of Georgia Apartment Association

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) who made a motion that **SB 75 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 41 2958S)**. Sen. Parent (42nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

Committee Recommendation: SB 75 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 41 2958S).

NOTE: Sen. Cowsert (46th) left at 5:58 p.m.

SB 105 (Sen. Strickland, 17th, LC 28 0043) State-Wide Probation System; conditions and procedures under which probation may be terminated early; revise

The Chair recognized himself for the purpose of presenting the bill.

Sen. Strickland (17th) presented the bill to Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public.

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Lisa McGahan of Georgia Justice Project

Denny Chow, student

Scott Maurer of DCS

Nick Powell of DCS

Sam Olens of Dentons

Adam Pipkin of Faith and Freedom Coalition

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Parent (42nd) who made a motion that **SB 105 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 41 2961S)**. Sen. Kennedy (18th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Committee Recommendation: SB 105 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 41 2961S).

SB 114 (Sen. Robertson, 29th, LC 36 4607) Professions and Businesses; grounds for refusing to grant or revoking a license; revise

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.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Hatchett (50th) who made a motion that **SB 114 Do Pass (LC 36 4607)**. Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Committee Recommendation: SB 114 Do Pass (LC 36 4608).

Chairman Strickland (17th) adjourned the meeting at 6:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Natalie Murphey, Recording Secretary

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Monday, February 22, 2021

The Senate Committee on Judiciary met on Monday, February 22, 2021 at 2:15 p.m., in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building (CLOB). The following Committee Members were in attendance.

Sen. Brian Strickland (17th), Chairman
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. John Kennedy (18th), Secretary
Sen. Harold Jones II (22nd)
Sen. Michael "Doc" Rhett (33rd)
Sen. Ben Watson (1st)
Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th)
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd)
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd)

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

Chairman Strickland (17th) called the meeting to order at 2:18 p.m.

SB 143 (Sen. Tippins, 37th, LC 41 2820) Mechanics and Materialmen; waiver of lien and labor or material bond rights; conform a reference within a statutory form

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.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Watson (1st) who made a motion that **SB 143 Do Pass (LC 41 2820)**. Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

Committee Recommendation: SB 143 Do Pass (LC 41 2820)

SB 85 (Sen. Albers, 56th, LC 41 2747) "Max Gruver Act"; 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.

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Rae Ann Gruver, mother of Max Gruver
Stephen Gruver, father of Max Gruver
Blakely Willard, girlfriend of Max Gruver

Testimony in opposition to the bill:
Jill Travis of GACDL

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Hatchett (50th) who made a motion that **SB 85 Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Kennedy (18th) seconded the motion.

The Chair recognized Sen. Parent (42nd) who made a motion to strike the term “than” on Line 41 and Line 151 and insert in its place the term “from.” Sen. Rhett (33rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

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

The Chair recognized the prior motion on the passage of the bill. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

Committee Recommendation: SB 85 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 41 2995S).

SB 78 (Sen. Jones, 22nd, LC 41 2794) Invasion of Privacy; prohibition on electronically transmitting or posting nude or sexually explicit photographs or videos for purposes of harassing the depicted person; revise

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

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public.

Testimony in favor of the bill:
Taylor Hawkins of Family Policy Alliance

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Rhett (22nd) who made a motion that **SB 78 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 41 2977S)** Sen. Parent (42nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

Committee Recommendation: SB 78 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 41 2977S).

SB 163 (Sen. Strickland, 17th, LC 41 2916) Judicial Emergency; suspension of statutory speedy trial requirements; provide

The Chair stated that SB 163 would receive a hearing only.

The Chair recognized himself 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:

Chief Judge Chris Brasher of the Superior Court of Fulton County

Chief Judge Brian Amero of the Superior Court of Henry County

Pete Skandalakis of PAC

Testimony in opposition to the bill:

Jill Travis of GACDL

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

Committee Recommendation: SB 163 (LC 41 2916) No action was taken.

Chairman Strickland (17th) adjourned the meeting at 3:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Natalie Murphey, Recording Secretary

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Wednesday, February 24, 2021

The Senate Committee on Judiciary met on Wednesday, February 24, 2021 at 4:45 p.m., in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building (CLOB). The following Committee Members were in attendance.

Sen. Brian Strickland (17th), Chairman
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Vice-Chairman (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. John Kennedy (18th), Secretary (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Blake Tillery (19th)
Sen. Harold Jones II (22nd)
Sen. Michael “Doc” Rhett (33rd) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Ben Watson (1st)
Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th)
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd)
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd)

Chairman Strickland (17th) called the meeting to order at 4:48 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Kennedy (18th) arrived at 4:50 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Cowsert (45th) arrived at 4:52 p.m.

SB 163 (Sen. Strickland, 17th, LC 41 3012S) Judicial Emergency; suspension of statutory speedy trial requirements; provide

The Chair recognized himself 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.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Tillery (19th) who made a motion that **SB 163 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 41 3012S)** Sen. Kennedy (18th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

Committee Recommendation: SB 163 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 41 3012S).

SB 168 (Sen. Walker, 20th, LC 44 1626) Meetings; corporation may hold annual shareholders' meetings and special shareholders' meetings by means of remote communication; provide

The Chair recognized Sen. Larry Walker III (20th) for the purpose of presenting the bill.
Sen. Walker (20th) 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 168 Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Tillery (19th) seconded the motion.

The Chair recognized Sen. Tillery (19th) who made a motion to strike the term “solely” on Line 26 and insert in its place the term “wholly.” Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

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

The Chair recognized the prior motion on the passage of the bill. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

Committee Recommendation: SB 168 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 41 3016S).

NOTE: Sen. Rhett (33rd) arrived at 4:57 p.m.

SB 185 (Sen. Hatchett, 50th, LC 43 1892) Revenue and Taxation; all questions of law decided by a court; matters from state board of equalization and refunds and appeals be decided without deference; require

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

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public.

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Marshall Guest of Metro Atlanta Chamber
Jonathan Feldman of Eversheds Sutherland

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) who made a motion that **SB 185 Do Pass (LC 43 1892)**. Sen. Kennedy (18th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Committee Recommendation: SB 185 Do Pass (LC 43 1892).

SB 117 (Sen. Miller, 49th, LC 41 2622) Department of Human Services; offenses of improper sexual contact by employee or agent in the first and second degrees; revise

The Chair recognized Sen. Butch Miller (49th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Miller (49th) 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

C.R. Chisholm, Solicitor General of Athens- Clarke County

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Cowsert (46th) who made a motion that **SB 117 Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Tillery (19th) seconded the motion.

The Chair recognized Sen. Tillery (19th) who made a motion to strike the words “unless the person was convicted of a misdemeanor offense” in Lines 226-27, strike Lines 238-39 in their entirety, add the word “felony” before the word “sexual” on Line 244, and add the word “felony” before the word “sexual” on Line 245. Sen. Hatchett (50th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

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

The Chair recognized the prior motion on the passage of the bill. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Committee Recommendation: SB 117 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 41 3017S)

SB 92 (Sen. Robertson, 29th, LC 28 0070) Controlled Substances; sale to and by minors of drug products containing dextromethorphan; prohibit

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.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Kennedy (18th) who made a motion that **SB 92 Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Watson (1st) seconded the motion.

The Chair recognized Sen. Tillery (19th) who made a motion to amend Line 67 to read “specifically provided by statute, no county, municipality, or consolidated local government may enact or enforce an ordinance.” Sen. Hatchett (50th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 7-2.

Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Hatchett (50th), Sen. Rhett (33rd), Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd), Sen. Tillery (19th) and Sen. Watson (1st) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Parent (42nd) and Sen. Jones (22nd) voted against the motion.

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

The Chair recognized the prior motion on the passage of the bill. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Committee Recommendation: SB 92 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 41 3018S).

SB 10 (Sen. Jones, 10th, LC 39 2781) "Jaye Mize Law"; promoting illegal drag racing and laying drags; provide for an offense

The Chair recognized Sen. Emanuel Jones (10th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Jones (10th) 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. Hatchett (50th) who made a motion that **SB 10 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 39 2952S)**. Sen. Rhett (33rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Committee Recommendation: SB 10 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 39 2952S).

SB 155 (Sen. Gooch, 51st, LC 39 2868) Safety Belts; failure to wear a safety belt or safety restraints for children as admissible evidence in civil actions; provide

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:

Philip Henderson of Ford
Nathan Humphrey of NFIB

Testimony in opposition to the bill:

Drew Ashby of GTLA

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Cowsert (46th) who made that motion that **SB 155 Do Pass (LC 39 2868)**. Sen. Watson (1st) seconded the motion. The motion failed by a vote of 4-5.

Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd), and Sen. Watson (1st) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Hatchett (50th), Sen. Jones (22nd), Sen. Parent (42nd), Sen. Rhett (33rd), and Sen. Tillery (19th) voted against the motion.

Committee Recommendation: SB 155 (LC 39 2868) No action was taken.

Chairman Strickland (17th) adjourned the meeting at 6:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Natalie Murphey, Recording Secretary

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Tuesday, March 2, 2021

The Senate Committee on Judiciary met on Tuesday, March 2, 2021 at 9:00 a.m., in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building (CLOB). The following Committee Members were in attendance.

Sen. Brian Strickland (17th), Chairman
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Vice-Chairman (*Left Early*)
Sen. John Kennedy (18th), Secretary
Sen. Harold Jones II (22nd) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Michael “Doc” Rhett (33rd)
Sen. Ben Watson (1st)
Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th)
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd) (*Arrived Late*)

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

Chairman Strickland (17th) called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

NOTE: Sen. Jones (22nd) arrived late at 9:03 a.m.

NOTE: Sen. Parent (42nd) arrived late at 9:03 a.m.

SB 197 (Sen. Jackson, 41st, LC 28 0189) Stalking; the definition of "place or places"; revise

The Chair recognized Sen. Kim Jackson (41st) for the purpose of presenting the bill.
Sen. Jackson (41st) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public.

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Judge Paige Reese Whitaker, Fulton County Superior Court
Georgia Commission for Family Violence, Kylee Elliot

Testimony in opposition to the bill:

Mazie Lynn Causey, Georgia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Parent (42nd) who made a motion that **SB 197 Do Pass (LC 28 0189)**. Sen. Rhett (33rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Committee Recommendation: SB 197 Do Pass (LC 28 0189).

SB 162 (Sen. Beach, 21st, LC 41 2923) Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit; additional judge of the superior court; provide

The Chair recognized Sen. Brandon Beach (21st) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Beach (21st) 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. Kennedy (18th) who made a motion that **SB 162 Do Pass (LC 41 2923)**. Sen. Cowsert (46th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Committee Recommendation: SB 162 Do Pass (LC 41 2923).

SB 18 (Sen. Jones, 22nd, LC 41 2698) **Limitations on Prosecution; offenses of rape, aggravated sodomy, and aggravated sexual battery; revise the statute of limitations**

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

The Chair stated that SB 18 would receive a hearing only and no action was taken on the bill.

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

NOTE: Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) arrived at 9:44 a.m.

Committee Recommendation: SB 18 (LC 41 2698) No action was taken.

SB 160 (Sen. Cowsert, 46th, LC 36 4638) **Civil Practice; tolling of limitations for tort actions while criminal prosecution is pending; provisions; change**

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

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public.

Testimony in opposition to the bill:
Jonathan Pope of GTLA

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Kennedy (18th) who made a motion that **SB 160 Do Pass (LC 36 4638)**. Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) seconded the motion. The motion failed (4-5).

Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd), Sen. Watson (1st) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Strickland (17th), Sen. Parent (42nd), Sen. Rhett (33rd), Sen. Hatchett (50th), and Sen. Jones (22nd) voted against the motion.

Committee Recommendation: SB 160 (LC 36 4638) No action was taken.

NOTE: The Chair recessed the meeting at 10:32 a.m.

NOTE: The Chair reconvened the meeting at 10:46 a.m.

SB 164 (Sen. Hufstetler, 52nd, LC 33 8615) HIV Tests; modernization of HIV related laws to align with science; provide

The Chair recognized Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Hufstetler (52nd) 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 164 Do Pass (LC 33 8615)**. Sen. Hatchett (50th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

Committee Recommendation: SB 164 Do Pass (LC 36 4638).

SB 189 (Sen. Cowsert, 46th, LC 36 4650) Civil Practice; separate trials for issues of liability and damage under certain circumstances; provide

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

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public.

Testimony in opposition to the bill:
Jonathan Pope of GTLA

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) who made a motion that **SB 189 Do Pass (LC 36 4650)**. Sen. Watson (1st) seconded the motion. The motion failed (4-5).

Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd), Sen. Watson (1st) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Strickland (17th), Sen. Parent (42nd), Sen. Rhett (33rd), Sen. Hatchett (50th), and Sen. Jones (22nd) voted against the motion.

Committee Recommendation: SB 189 (LC 36 4650) No action was taken.

SB 234 (Sen. Kennedy, 18th, LC 41 3029S) "Georgia Uniform Mediation Act"; 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.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Stephen McKinney of Miles Mediation and Arbitration
Rusty Sewell, State Bar of Georgia

The Chair recognized Sen. Cowsert (46th) who made a motion **Do Pass by Substitute (LC 41 3029S)**. Sen. Parent (42nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

Committee Recommendation: 234 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 41 3029S).

NOTE: Sen. Cowsert (46th) left at 12:01 p.m.

SB 276 (Sen. Kennedy, 18th, LC 47 0928) County Law Libraries; authorize the charging and collection of law library fees in county recorders' courts and magistrate courts; allow county governing authorities

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. Kirkpatrick (32nd) who made a motion that **SB 276 Do Pass (LC 47 0928)**. Sen. Hatchett (50th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Committee Recommendation: Do Pass (LC 47 0928).

SB 238 (Sen. Strickland, 17th, LC 33 8590) Code Of Georgia; enactment of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated; revise provisions

The Chair recognized himself 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.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Watson (1st) who made a motion **Do Pass (LC 33 8590)**. Sen. Kennedy (18th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Committee Recommendation: Do Pass (LC 33 8590).

SB 226 (Sen. Anavitarte, 31st, LC 49 0441) **Sale or Distribution of Harmful Materials to Minors; provisions of Code Section 16-12-103 shall be applicable to libraries operated by schools; provide**

The Chair stated that SB 226 would receive a hearing only.

The Chair recognized Sen. Jason Anavitarte (31st) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Anavitarte (31st) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public.

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Mike Griffin of GA Baptists
Virginia Galloway of Faith and Freedom Coalition
Coleman Muzio of Family Policy Alliance

Testimony in opposition to the bill:

Gretchen Walton of Cobb County Schools
Grace Kim of Georgia School Board Association

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

Committee Recommendation: SB 226 (LC 39 0441) No action was taken.

NOTE: The Chair recessed the meeting at 12:55 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Cowsert (46th) returned at 1:05 p.m.

NOTE: The Chair reconvened the meeting at 1:08 p.m.

SB 171 (Sen. Robertson, 29th, LC 41 2918) **"Safe Communities Act of 2021; enact**

The Chair stated that SB 171 would receive a hearing only.

The Chair recognized Sen. Randy Robertson (29th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Robertson (22nd) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public.

Testimony in opposition to the bill:

Isabel Otero of SPLC Action Fund

Chris Bruce of ACLU

Larry Ramsey of ACCG

Mazie Lynn Causey of GACDL

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

Committee Recommendation: SB 171 (LC 41 3038S) No action was taken.

SB 190 (Sen. Cowsert, 46th, LC 36 2918) Torts; recovery and admissibility of special damages for medical and health care expenses; provide

The Chair recognized Sen. Cowsert (46th) for the purpose of presenting the bill.

Sen. Cowsert (46th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public.

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Ed Crowell of GMTA

Testimony in opposition to the bill:

Jonathan Pope of GTLA

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) who made a motion that **SB 190 Do Pass (LC 36 4651)**. Sen. Kennedy (18th) seconded the motion. The motion failed (4-5).

Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd), Sen. Watson (1st) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Strickland (17th), Sen. Parent (42nd), Sen. Rhett (33rd), Sen. Hatchett (50th), and Sen. Jones (22nd) voted against the motion.

Committee Recommendation: SB 190 (LC 36 4651) No action was taken.

Chairman Strickland (17th) adjourned the meeting at 3:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Natalie Murphey, Recording Secretary

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Wednesday, March 3, 2021

The Senate Committee on Judiciary met on Wednesday, March 3, 2021 at 10:00 a.m., in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building (CLOB). The following Committee Members were in attendance.

Sen. Brian Strickland (17th), Chairman
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. John Kennedy (18th), Secretary (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Harold Jones II (22nd) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Michael “Doc” Rhett (33rd)
Sen. Ben Watson (1st) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th)
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd)
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd)

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

Chairman Strickland (17th) called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

NOTE: Sen. Watson (1st) arrived at 10:06 a.m.

NOTE: Sen. Kennedy (18th) arrived at 10:06 a.m.

[SB 226](#) (Sen. Anavitarte, 31st, LC 49 0441) Sale or Distribution of Harmful Materials to Minors; provisions of Code Section 16-12-103 shall be applicable to libraries operated by schools; provide

The Chair recognized Sen. Jason Anavitarte (31st) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Anavitarte (31st) presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Jones (22nd) arrived at 10:16 a.m.

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public.

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Mike Griffin of GA Baptists
Virginia Galloway of Faith and Freedom Coalition
Coleman Muzio of Family Policy Alliance
Noelle Kahaian, of Protect Student Health GA

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) who made a motion that **SB 226 Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Kennedy (18th) seconded the motion.

The Chair recognized Sen. Watson (1st) who made a motion to amend Line 40 to replace the word “determination” with the word “determine.” Sen. Hatchett (50th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

The Chair recognized Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) who made a motion to amend Line 34 by adding the word “business” before the word “days.” Sen. Hatchett (50th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

The Chair recognized Sen. Watson (1st) who made a motion to amend Line 42 by adding the word “business” before the word “days.” Sen. Kennedy (18th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

The Chair recognized Sen. Watson (1st) who made a motion to amend Line 25 by changing “August 1, 2021” to “September 1, 2021.” Sen. Parent (42nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

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

The Chair recognized the prior motion on the passage of the bill. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

Committee Recommendation: SB 226 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 41 3067S).

Chairman Strickland (17th) adjourned the meeting at 10:38 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Natalie Murphey, Recording Secretary

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Wednesday, March 10, 2021

The Senate Committee on Judiciary met on Wednesday, March 10, 2021 at 4:45 p.m., in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building (CLOB). The following Committee Members were in attendance.

Sen. Brian Strickland (17th), Chairman
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Vice-Chairman (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. John Kennedy (18th), Secretary
Sen. Michael “Doc” Rhett (33rd)
Sen. Ben Watson (1st)
Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th)
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd)

NOTE: Sen. Blake Tillery (19th) and Sen. Harold Jones (22nd) were absent.

Chairman Strickland (17th) called the meeting to order at 4:53 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) arrived at 4:55 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Cowsert (46th) arrived at 4:57 p.m.

[HB 497](#) (Rep. Efstration, 104th, LC 33 8462) Code Revision Commission; revise, modernize and correct errors or omissions

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.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Watson (1st) who made a motion **HB 497 Do Pass (LC 33 8462)**. Sen. Kennedy (18th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Committee Recommendation: HB 497 Do Pass (LC 33 8462).

[HB 322](#) (Rep. Wiedower, 199th, LC 41 2860) Juvenile Code; revise definition of sexual exploitation

The Chair recognized Rep. Marcus Wiedower (199th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Wiedower (199th) 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. Kennedy (18th) who made a motion **HB 322 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 41 3092S)**. Sen. Cowsert (46th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Committee Recommendation: HB 322 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 41 3092S).

HB 620 (Rep. Leverett, 33rd, LC 41 3053) Guardian and ward; payment of certain settlements involving claims of minors; clarify and revise procedures and requirements

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

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public.

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Bob Bray of Council of State Court Judges
Adam Malone of GTLA

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Watson (1st) who made a motion **HB 620 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 41 3095S)**. Sen. Parent (42nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 6-1.

Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Hatchett (50th), Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd), Sen. Parent (42nd), Sen. Rhett (33rd), and Sen. Watson (1st) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Cowsert (46th) voted against the motion.

Committee Recommendation: HB 620 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 41 3095S).

HB 112 (Rep. Kelley, 16th, LC 33 8502) Torts; provide certain immunities from liability claims regarding COVID-19; extend applicability for one year

The Chair recognized Rep. Trey Kelley (16th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Kelley (16th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public.

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Anna Adams of GHA

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Hatchett (50th) who made a motion that **HB 112 Do Pass (LC 33 8502)**. Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) seconded the motion.

The Chair recognized Sen. Cowsert (46th) who made a motion to strike the words “gross negligence” on Lines 102 and 109 in SB 359. Sen. Kennedy (18th) seconded the motion. The motion failed by a vote of 4-4.

Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd), and Sen. Watson (1st) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Parent (42nd), Sen. Hatchett (50th), Sen. Rhett (33rd), and Sen. Strickland (17th) voted against the motion.

The Chair recognized the prior motion on the passage of the bill. The motion passed by a vote of 4-3.

Sen. Hatchett (50th), Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd), and Sen. Watson (1st) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Parent (42nd), and Sen. Rhett (33rd) voted against the motion.

Committee Recommendation: HB 112 Do Pass (LC 33 8502).

Chairman Strickland (17th) adjourned the meeting at 5:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Natalie Murphey, Recording Secretary

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Monday, March 15, 2021

The Senate Committee on Judiciary met on Monday, March 15, 2021 at 2:15 p.m., in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building (CLOB). The following Committee Members were in attendance.

Sen. Brian Strickland (17th), Chairman
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Vice-Chairman (*Left Early*)
Sen. John Kennedy (18th), Secretary
Sen. Blake Tillery (19th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Harold Jones II (22nd)
Sen. Michael “Doc” Rhett (33rd)
Sen. Ben Watson (1st) (*Left Early*)
Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th)
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd)
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd)

Chairman Strickland (17th) called the meeting to order at 2:18 p.m.

[HB 154](#) (Rep. Reeves, 34th, LC 48 0332S) Domestic relations; protection of children; strengthen, clarify, and update provisions

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.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Hatchett (50th) who made a motion that **HB 154 Do Pass by Substitute. (LC 33 8766S)**. Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 7-1.

Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Hatchett (50th), Sen. Jones (22nd), Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd), Sen. Parent (42nd), Sen. Rhett (33rd), and Sen. Watson (1st) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Cowsert (46th) voted against the motion.

Committee Recommendation: HB 154 Do Pass (LC 48 0332S).

NOTE: Sen. Tillery (19th) arrived at 2:28 p.m.

[HB 470](#) (Rep. Washburn, 141st, LC 50 0157) Property; no plans are required when units are not designated by physical structures; provide

The Chair recognized Rep. Dale Washburn (141st) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Washburn (141st) 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. Watson (1st) who made a motion that **HB 470 Do Pass (LC 50 0157)**. Sen. Kennedy (18th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Committee Recommendation: HB 470 Do Pass (LC 50 0157).

HB 548 (Rep. Dempsey, 13th, LC 33 8627) Social services; reasonable access to records concerning reports of child abuse to the Administrative Office of the Courts; 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:

Tom Rawlings of DFACS

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Watson (1st) who made a motion that **HB 548 Do Pass (LC 33 8627)**. Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Committee Recommendation: HB 548 Do Pass (LC 33 8627).

HB 371 (Rep. Gunter, 8th, LC 28 0266S) Evidence; certain proceedings may be conducted by video conference; provide

The Chair recognized Rep. Stan Gunter (8th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Gunter (8th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public.

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Debra Nesbit of ACCG

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

HB 371 failed to receive a motion.

Committee Recommendation: HB 371 (LC 28 0266S) No action was taken.

HB 553 (Rep. Gunter, 8th, LC 41 2946) State government; participation in hearings by electronic communications; provide

The Chair recognized Rep. Gunter (8th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Gunter (8th) 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. Hatchett (50th) who made a motion that **HB 553 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 33 8758S)**. Sen. Kennedy (18th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

Committee Recommendation: HB 553 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 33 8758S).

HB 258 (Rep. Sainz, 180th, LC 28 0256S) Crimes and offenses; response to State v. Williams, 2020 Ga. LEXIS 85; provisions

The Chair recognized Rep. Steven Sainz (180th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Sainz (180th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public.

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Herb Cranford, DA of Coweta Judicial Circuit

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Tillery (19th) who made a motion that **HB 258 Do Pass (LC 28 0256S)**. Sen. Jones (22nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 8-1.

Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Hatchett (50th), Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd), Sen. Parent (42nd), Sen. Rhett (33rd), Sen. Tillery (19th), Sen. Jones (22nd) and Sen. Watson (1st) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Cowsert (46th) abstained from the motion.

Committee Recommendation: HB 258 Do Pass (LC 38 0256S).

NOTE: Sen. Watson (1st) departed at 2:52 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Cowsert (46th) departed at 2:54 p.m.

HB 194 (Sen. Sainz, 180th, LC 48 0416S) Criminal procedure; term of probation shall follow mandatory term of imprisonment for persons convicted of a sexual offense; clarify

The Chair stated that HB 194 would receive a hearing only.

The Chair recognized Rep. Sainz (180th) for the purpose of presenting the bill.
Rep. Sainz (180th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public.

Testimony in opposition to the bill:

Jill Travis of GACDL

Brendan Spear of Restore Georgia

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

Committee Recommendation: HB 194 (LC 48 0416S) No action was taken.

Chairman Strickland (17th) adjourned the meeting at 3:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Natalie Murphey, Recording Secretary

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Wednesday, March 17, 2021

The Senate Committee on Judiciary met on Wednesday, March 17, 2021 at 4:45 p.m., in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building (CLOB). The following Committee Members were in attendance.

Sen. Brian Strickland (17th), Chairman
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. John Kennedy (18th), Secretary
Sen. Harold Jones II (22nd)
Sen. Michael “Doc” Rhett (33rd)
Sen. Ben Watson (1st)
Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th)
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd)
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd)

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

Chairman Strickland (17th) called the meeting to order at 4:53 p.m.

[HB 371](#) (Rep. Gunter, 8th, LC 28 0266S) Evidence; certain proceedings may be conducted by video conference; provide

The Chair recognized Rep. Stan Gunter (8th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Gunter (8th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public.

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Tain Kell, Superior Court Judge of Cobb County
Chris Arnt, DA of Lookout Mountain Judicial Circuit
Stan Cooper of Department of Corrections
Terry Norris of GA Sheriffs Associations

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Hatchett (50th) who made a motion that **HB 371 Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Strickland (17th) seconded the motion.

The Chair recognized Sen. Hatchett (50th) who made a motion to add “or civil” after “criminal” on Line 27 and deleting everything after the word “trial” in that sentence. Sen. Parent (42nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

The Chair recognized Sen. Cowsert (46th) who made a motion to add the word “non-evidentiary.” between “conduct” and “hearings” at Line 17. Sen. Jones (22nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

The Chair recognized Sen. Cowser (46th) who made a motion to add an effective date upon the Governor's signature and a sunset date of July 30, 2022. Sen. Watson (1st) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

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

The Chair recognized the prior motion on the passage of the bill. The motion passed by a vote of 6-2.

Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Hatchett (50th), Sen. Jones (22nd), Sen. Rhett (33rd), Sen. Parent (42nd), and Sen. Watson (1st) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Cowser (46th) and Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) voted against the motion.

Committee Recommendation: HB 371 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 41 3121S).

HB 94 (Rep. Rich, 97th, LC 28 9958) Crimes and offenses; provide for the crime of theft by possession of stolen mail

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

The Chair recognized Rep. Bonnie Rich (97th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Rich (97th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public.

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Keith Speers, US Postal Inspector

Testimony in opposition to the bill:

Thomas Weaver, private citizen

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

Committee Recommendation: HB 94 (LC 28 9958) No action was taken.

HB 562 (Rep. Carpenter, 4th, LC 39 2924) Criminal procedure; add DFCS case managers to 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. Hatchett (50th) who made a motion that **HB 562 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 39 3043S)**. Sen. Jones (22nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

Committee Recommendation: HB 562 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 39 3043S).

NOTE: Sen. Jones (22nd) left at 6:15 p.m.

HB 534 (Rep. Bonner, 72nd, LC 39 2986-ECS) Crimes and offenses; promoting illegal drag racing and laying drags; provide for offense

The Chair recognized Rep. Josh Bonner (72nd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Bonner (72nd) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public.

Testimony in opposition to the bill:
Mazie Lynn Causey of GACDL

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) who made a motion that **HB 534 Do Pass (LC 39 2986-ECS)**. Sen. Cowser (46th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Committee Recommendation: HB 534 Do Pass (LC 39 2986-ECS).

NOTE: Sen. Jones (22nd) returned at 6:20 p.m.

HB 479 (Rep. Reeves, 34th, LC 41 3075-ECS) Criminal procedure; revise certain arrest powers; provisions

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:
Chris Bruice of ACLU of GA
James Woodall of Georgia NAACP
Pete Skandalakis of PAC
Cosby Johnson of GA Chamber
Mazie Lynn Causey of GACDL
Testimony in opposition to the bill:
Ed Stone, retired police officer

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Cowsert (46th) who made a motion that **HB 479 Do Pass (LC 41 3075-ECS)**. Sen. Parent (42nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

Committee Recommendation: HB 479 Do Pass (LC 41 3075-ECS).

HB 231 (Rep. Gaines, 117th, LC 41 3102S) Crimes and offenses; victims of stalking; expand applicability of protective orders

The Chair stated that HB 231 would receive a hearing only.

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

Rebecca Grist, Bibb County Solicitor General

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

Committee Recommendation: HB 231 (LC 41 3102S) No action was taken.

Chairman Strickland (17th) adjourned the meeting at 7:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Natalie Murphey, Recording Secretary

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Monday, March 22, 2021

The Senate Committee on Judiciary met on Wednesday, March 17, 2021 at 9:15 a.m., in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building (CLOB). The following Committee Members were in attendance.

Sen. Brian Strickland (17th), Chairman
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Vice-Chairman (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. John Kennedy (18th), Secretary (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Harold Jones II (22nd) (*Arrived Late*) (*Left Early*)
Sen. Michael “Doc” Rhett (33rd) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Ben Watson (1st) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th)
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd)
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd) (*Arrived Late*)

NOTE: Sen. Tillery (19th) was absent.
Chairman Strickland (17th) called the meeting to order at 9:18 a.m.

[HB 272](#) (Rep. Ballinger, 33rd, LC 48 0410) Juvenile Code; juvenile court to include children who are under 18 years of age; change jurisdiction

The Chair stated that HB 272 would receive a hearing only.

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

NOTE: Sen. Jones (22nd) arrived at 9:20 a.m.
NOTE: Sen. Watson (1st) arrived at 9:21 a.m.

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public.

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Randy Banks of Houston County Sheriff’s Office
Andy Hester of Turner County Sheriff’s Office
Judge Steve Teske of Juvenile Court of Clayton County
Tyrone Oliver of DJJ

NOTE: Sen. Parent (42nd) arrived at 9: 25 a.m.
NOTE: Sen. Rhett (33rd) arrived at 9:26 a.m.
NOTE: Sen. Cowsert (46th) arrived at 9:27 a.m.
NOTE: Sen. Kennedy (18th) arrived at 9:27 a.m.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

Committee Recommendation: HB 272 (LC 48 0410) No action was taken.

HB 363 (Rep. LaHood, 175th, LC 33 8545) Crimes and offenses; protection of elder persons; revise definitions

The Chair recognized Rep. John LaHood (175th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. LaHood (175th) presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Parent (42nd) left at 9:50 a.m.

NOTE: Sen. Jones (22nd) left at 9:50 a.m.

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Watson (1st) who made a motion that **HB 363 Do Pass (LC 33 8545)**. Sen. Kennedy (18th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (6-0).

Committee Recommendation: HB 363 Do Pass (LC 33 8545).

NOTE: Sen. Parent (42nd) returned at 9:52 a.m.

HB 306 (Rep. Gunter, 8th, LC 41 2830) Corporations, partnership, and associations; corporations may hold shareholders' meetings by means of remote communication; provide

The Chair stated that HB 306 would receive a hearing only.

The Chair recognized Rep. Stan Gunter (8th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Gunter (8th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public.

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Julie Howard, attorney

Lisa Turner, GA Community Associations Institute

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

Committee Recommendation: HB 306 (LC 41 2830) No action was taken.

HB 94 (Rep. Rich, 97th, LC 28 9958) Crimes and offenses; provide for the crime of theft by possession of stolen mail

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

The Chair recognized Rep. Bonnie Rich (97th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Rich (97th) 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.

Committee Recommendation: HB 94 (LC 28 9958) No action was taken.

HB 327 (Rep. Momtahan, 17th, LC 28 0288S) Organized Retail Crime Prevention Act;
enact

The Chair stated that HB 327 would receive a hearing only.

The Chair recognized Rep. Martin Momtahan (17th) for the purpose of presenting the bill.
Rep. Momtahan (17th) and 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.

Committee Recommendation: HB 327 (LC 28 0288S) No action was taken.

Chairman Strickland (17th) adjourned the meeting at 10:27 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Natalie Murphey, Recording Secretary

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Wednesday, March 24, 2021

The Senate Committee on Judiciary met on Wednesday, March 24, 2021 at 8:00 a.m., in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building (CLOB). The following Committee Members were in attendance.

Sen. Brian Strickland (17th), Chairman
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Vice-Chairman (*Left Early*)
Sen. John Kennedy (18th), Secretary (*Left Early*)
Sen. Blake Tillery (19th) (*Left Early*)
Sen. Harold Jones II (22nd)
Sen. Michael “Doc” Rhett (33rd) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Ben Watson (1st) (*Left Early*)
Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th)
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd)
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd) (*Arrived Late*)

Chairman Strickland (17th) called the meeting to order at 8:12 a.m.

HB 383 (Rep. Carson, 46th, LC 44 1628ER) State government; certain contracts; Israel; provisions

The Chair recognized Rep. John Carson (46th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Carson (46th) presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Parent (42nd) arrived at 8:16 a.m.

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 **HB 383 Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Kennedy (18th) seconded the motion.

The Chair recognized Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) who made a motion to amend Line 34 by striking the words “individual or.” Sen. Kennedy (18th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

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

The Chair recognized the prior motion on the passage of the bill. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

Committee Recommendation: HB 383 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 41 3159ERS).

NOTE: Sen. Rhett (33rd) arrived at 8:48 a.m.

HB 411 (Rep. Gullett, 19th, LC 41 3119S) Prosecuting Attorneys Oversight Commission; create

The Chair recognized Rep. Joseph Gullett (19th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Gullett (19th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public.

Testimony in opposition to the bill:

Pam Bettis, Solicitor General of Henry County

Sherry Boston, DA of Dekalb County

Tasha Mosley, DA of Clayton County

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Cowsert (46th) who made a motion that **HB 411 Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Watson (1st) seconded the motion.

The Chair recognized Sen. Cowsert (46th) who made a motion to amend line 21 by adding “who shall be subject to confirmation by the Senate” after the word “members” and to amend at line 100 by inserting a new subsection (e) and re-designate all subsections accordingly. Sen. Watson (1st) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

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

The Chair recognized the prior motion on the passage of the bill. The motion passed by a vote of 5-4.

Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd), Sen. Tillery (19th), and Sen. Watson (1st) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Hatchett (50th), Sen. Parent (42nd), Sen. Rhett (33rd), and Sen. Jones (22nd) voted against the motion.

Committee Recommendation: HB 411 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 41 3161S).

HB 591 (Rep. Hogan, 179th, LC 33 8644) Mental health; marriage and family therapists to perform certain acts which physicians and others are authorized to perform; authorize

The Chair recognized Rep. Don Hogan (179th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Hogan (179th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public.

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Elizabeth Appley of GAMFT

Dan Upshaw of GAMFT
Steve Livingston of GAMFT

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Watson (1st) who made a motion that **HB 591 Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) seconded the motion.

The Chair recognized Sen. Watson (1st) who made a motion to amend by adding a new subsection (e) to O.C.G.A. § 37-3-41 and to add a new subsection (e) to O.C.G.A. § 37-7-41. Sen. Kennedy (18th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

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

The Chair recognized the prior motion on the passage of the bill. The motion passed by a vote of 7-2.

Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Hatchett (50th), Sen. Jones (22nd), Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd), Sen. Parent (42nd), Sen. Rhett (33rd), and Sen. Watson (1st) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Cowsert (46th) and Sen. Tillery (19th) voted against the motion.

Committee Recommendation: HB 591 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 41 3162S).

NOTE: The Chair recessed the meeting at 9:32 a.m.

NOTE: The Chair reconvened the meeting at 9:40 a.m.

HB 334 (Rep. Gullett, 19th, LC 41 3007S) Superior courts; clerks; notaries public; provisions

The Chair recognized Rep. Joseph Gullett (19th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Gullett (19th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public.

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Geno Yoscouits of Rock Family of Companies
Sheree Garner of Rock Family of Companies
Lori Godfrey of Community Bankers Association
Christine Hayes of Georgia State Bar
Sydney Rubin of Georgia Credit Union Association
Mike Holiman, Superior Court Clerk
Brandee Bickle of Georgia's Own Credit Union
Elizabeth Chandler of Georgia Bankers Association

The Chair recognized Sen. Tillery (19th) made a motion that **HB 334 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 3158S)**. Sen. Cowsert (46th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 5-4.

Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Tillery (19th), Sen. Jones (22nd), Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) and Sen. Rhett (33rd) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Hatchett (50th), Sen. Parent (42nd) and Sen. Watson (1st) voted against the motion.

Committee Recommendation: HB 334 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 41 3158S).

NOTE: Sen. Tillery (19th) departed at 10:37 a.m.

HB 327 (Rep. Momtahan, 17th, LC 28 0288S) Organized Retail Crime Prevention Act; enact

The Chair recognized Rep. Martin Momtahan (17th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Momtahan (17th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public.

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Thomas Beusse of GA Retailers

Brian Hudson of Home Depot

Glen Wilkins of Walmart

Testimony in opposition to the bill:

Jay Morgan of Ebay

Nick Juliano of Uber

Servando Esparza of Tech Net

James Hines of Internet Association

Mike Shutley of Amazon

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Watson (1st) made a motion that **HB 327 Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Rhett (33rd) seconded the motion.

The Chair recognized himself (17th) and made a motion to strike the word “shall” on Line 78 and insert the word “may” in its place. Sen. Cowsert (46th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

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

The Chair recognized the prior motion on the passage of the bill. The motion passed by a vote of 6-2.

Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Jones (22nd), Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd), Sen. Parent (42nd), Sen. Rhett (33rd), and Sen. Watson (1st) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Cowsert (46th) and Sen. Hatchett (50th) voted against the motion.

Committee Recommendation: HB 327 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 41 3164S)

NOTE: Sen. Jones (22nd) left at 11:14 a.m.

NOTE: Sen. Cowsert (46th) left at 11:20 a.m.

HB 306 (Rep. Gunter, 8th, LC 41 2830) Corporations, partnership, and associations; corporations may hold shareholders' meetings by means of remote communication; provide

The Chair recognized Rep. Stan Gunter (8th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Gunter (8th) 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. Hatchett (50th) who made a motion that **HB 306 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 41 3105S)**. Sen. Parent (42nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (6-0).

Committee Recommendation: HB 306 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 41 3105S).

NOTE: Sen. Cowsert (46th) returned at 11:46 a.m.

NOTE: Sen. Jones (22nd) returned at 11:48 a.m.

HB 272 (Rep. Ballinger, 33rd, LC 48 0410S) Juvenile Code; juvenile court to include children who are under 18 years of age; change jurisdiction

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

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public.

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Debra Nesbit of ACCG

Jeff Breedlove of GA Council of Substance Abuse

Jill Travis of GACDL

J. Tom Morgan of GACDL

Judge Peggy Walker of Douglas County

Tyrone Oliver of DJJ

Isabel Otero of SPLC Action Fund

Testimony in opposition to the bill:

Terry Norris of GA Sheriff's Association

Dwayne Orrick of GA Association of Chiefs of Police

The Chair recognized Sen. Parent (42nd) who made a motion that **HB 272 Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Jones (22nd) seconded the motion.

The Chair recognized Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) who made a motion to strike "2021" on Line 40 and insert in its place "2022" and to strike "2022" on Line 496 and insert in its place "2023." Sen. Rhett (33rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

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

The Chair recognized the prior motion on the passage of the bill. The motion passed by a vote of 5-3.

Sen. Jones (22nd), Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd), Sen. Parent (42nd), Sen. Rhett (33rd), and Sen. Watson (1st) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Kennedy (18th) and Sen. Hatchett (50th) voted against the motion.

Committee Recommendation: HB 272 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 41 3168S).

HB 94 (Rep. Rich, 97th, LC 28 9958) Crimes and offenses; provide for the crime of theft by possession of stolen mail

The Chair recognized Rep. Bonnie Rich (97th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Rich (97th) 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. Kirkpatrick (32nd) who made a motion that **HB 94 Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Rhett (33rd) seconded the motion.

The Chair recognized Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) who made a motion to strike the term "of" on Line 41 and insert in its place the term "or" and to add an "e" to the word "envelopes" on Line 39. Sen. Rhett (33rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

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

The Chair recognized the prior motion on the passage of the bill. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

Committee Recommendation: HB 94 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 41 3169S).

NOTE: Sen. Cowsert (46th) departed at 12:20 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Kennedy (18th) departed at 12:24 p.m.

HB 194 (Sen. Sainz, 180th, LC 48 0396S) Criminal procedure; term of probation shall follow mandatory term of imprisonment for persons convicted of a sexual offense; clarify

The Chair recognized Rep. Steven Sainz (180th) for the purpose of presenting the bill.

Rep. Sainz (180th) 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. Kirkpatrick (32nd) who made a motion that **HB 194 Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Hatchett (50th) seconded the motion.

The Chair recognized Sen. Parent (42nd) who made a motion to strike the term “shall” throughout the bill and insert in its place the term “may”. Sen. Rhett (33rd) seconded the motion. The motion failed by a vote of 3-3.

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

Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd), Sen. Hatchett (50th), and Sen. Watson (1st) voted against the motion.

The Chair recognized himself (17th) and made a motion to delete “remove registration fee” on Line 17 in the caption of the bill, underline the new text at Line 63, and correct the error at Line 513 to change the reference from Code Section 16-6-21 to Code Section 16-5-21. Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

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

The Chair recognized the prior motion on the passage of the bill. The motion passed by a vote of 4-3.

Sen. Strickland (17th), Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd), Sen. Hatchett (50th), and Sen. Watson (1st) voted in favor of the motion.

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

Committee Recommendation: HB 194 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 41 3166S).

HB 231 (Rep. Gaines, 117th, LC 28 0297) Crimes and offenses; victims of stalking; expand applicability of protective orders

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

Rep. Gaines (117th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public.

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Jamie Bormann of Crisis Line and Safehouse

NOTE: Sen. Watson (1st) left at 12:45 p.m.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) who made a motion that **HB 231 Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Hatchett (50th) seconded the motion.

The Chair recognized Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) who made a motion to strike Line 35 containing the definition of a minor. Sen. Hatchett (50th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

NOTE: Sen. Watson (1st) returned at 12:47 p.m.

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

The Chair recognized the prior motion on the passage of the bill. The motion passed unanimously (6-0).

Committee Recommendation: HB 231 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 41 3167S).

NOTE: Sen. Watson (1st) departed at 12:48 p.m.

HB 443 (Rep. Leverett, 33rd, LC 41 2921) Torts; transfer of structured settlement payment rights; provide new requirements

The Chair recognized Rep. Rob Leverett (33rd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Leverett (33rd) 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 **HB 443 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 41 3155S)**. Sen. Jones (22nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Committee Recommendation: HB 443 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 41 3155S).

HB 635 (Rep. Leverett, 33rd, LC 41 3027S) Courts; each judge of the superior court, state court, and probate court and each magistrate shall have authority to perform any lawful judicial act; provide

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

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public.

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Chief Judge Christopher Brasher of Superior Court of Fulton County

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Jones (22nd) who made a motion that **HB 635 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 41 3147S)**. Sen. Parent (42nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Committee Recommendation: HB 635 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 41 3147S).

HB 464 (Rep. Scoggins, 14th, LC 41 2891) Guardian and ward; petition for appointment of temporary guardian of minor filed in probate court may be transferred to juvenile court; provide

The Chair recognized Rep. Mitchell Scoggins (14th). for the purpose of presenting the bill.
Rep. Scoggins (14th) 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. Hatchett (50th) who made a motion that **HB 464 Do Pass (LC 41 2891)**. Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Committee Recommendation: HB 464 Do Pass (LC 41 2891).

Chairman Strickland (17th) adjourned the meeting at 1:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Brian Strickland (17th), Chairman

/s/ Natalie Murphey, Recording Secretary