

**THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE
ENVIRONMENT
2021-2022 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
139 Altama Connector, #345
Brunswick, GA 31525

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 NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE ENVIRONMENT
COMMITTEE RULES 2021-2022 SESSION**

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 9, 2022**

The Senate Committee on Natural Resources and the Environment met on Wednesday, February 9, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. in the Senate Mezzanine of the State Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

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

NOTE: Sen. Matt Brass (28th), Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), and Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (13th) were absent.

Chairman Harper (7th) called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

SR 345 (Sen. Hatchett, 50th, LC 122 0343) Shortline Trail; renaming to the Bill and Dustie MacKay Trail; support

The Chair recognized Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th) to present the bill. Sen. Hatchett (50th) presented the bill to the Committee.

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

The Chair recognized Sen. Ginn (47th) who made a motion that **SR 345 Do Pass (LC 122 0343)**. Sen. Merritt (9th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SR 345 DO PASS (LC 122 0343)

NOTE: Sen. Tippins (37th) arrived at 10:14 a.m.

SB 469 (Sen. Harper, 7th, LC 51 0069) Watercraft; certain watercraft to have day and night visual distress signals on board when on coastal waters of Georgia; require

The Chair presented the bill to the Committee.

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

Testimony in favor of the Bill:

Major Bob Holley, Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:

None

The Chair recognized Sen. Ginn (47th) who made the motion that **SB 469 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 51 0106S)**. Sen. Jackson (41st) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SB 469 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 51 0106S)

SB 440 (Sen. Ginn, 47th, LC 51 0078) **Dam safety; revise the definition of a dam**

The Chair stated that SB 440 would receive a hearing only.

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

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

NOTE: Sen. Goodman (8th) left at 10:45 a.m.

Testimony in favor of the Bill:

None

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:

Randy Bass, Association of State Dam Safety Officials

Chris Manganiello, Chattahoochee Riverkeeper

Marc Miller, Freese and Nichols

NOTE: Sen. Tippins (37th) left at 10:54 a.m.

NOTE: Sen. Harrell (40th) left at 11:00 a.m.

Committee Recommendation: SB 440 (LC 51 0078) No action was taken.

Chairman Harper (7th) adjourned the meeting at 11:03 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 2, 2022**

The Senate Committee on Natural Resources and the Environment met on Wednesday, March 2, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. in the Senate Mezzanine of the State Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

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

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

Chairman Harper (7th) called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m.

[HB 893](#) (Rep. Nix, 69th, LC 51 0104S) Conservation and natural resources; extend date for hazardous waste fees

The Chair recognized Rep. Randy Nix (69th) to present the bill. Rep. Nix (69th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair recognized Sen. Ginn (47th) who made the motion that **HB 893 Do Pass (LC 51 0104S)**. Sen. Harrell (40th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: HB 893 DO PASS (LC 51 0104S)

[HB 343](#) (Rep. Rhodes, 120th, LC 44 1699S) Game and fish; rebuttable presumption of violation by individuals in possession of hunting paraphernalia while on others' lands; provide

The Chair recognized Rep. Trey Rhodes (120th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Rhodes (120th) 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:

Andres Villegas, Georgia Forestry Association

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:

None

NOTE: Sen. Tippins (37th) arrived at 1:15 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Jackson (41st), Sen. McNeill (3rd), and Sen. Gooch (51st) arrived at 1:16 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Merritt (9th) arrived at 1:18 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Davenport (44th) arrived at 1:19 p.m.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Ginn (47th) who made a motion to change “\$500” on line 25 to “\$975” and change “\$1500” on line 28 to “\$2000”. Sen. Tippins (37th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

The Chair recognized Sen. Ginn (47th) who made the motion that **HB 343 Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Sims (12th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: HB 343 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 51 0155S)

HB 1148 (Rep. Rhodes, 120th, LC 51 0076) **Game and fish; possession of cervid carcasses; remove definitions; provisions**

The Chair recognized Rep. Rhodes (120th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Rhodes (120th) 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:

Charlie Kilmaster, Department of Natural Resources

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:

None

NOTE: Sen. Gooch (51st) left at 1:43 p.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Jackson (41st) who made a motion that **HB 1148 Do Pass (LC 51 0076)**. Sen. Sims (12th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: HB 1148 DO PASS (LC 51 0076)

Chairman Harper (7th) adjourned the meeting at 1:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Emily Doppel, Recording Secretary

**Minutes on the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and the Environment
Tuesday, March 8, 2022**

The Senate Committee on Natural Resources and the Environment met on Tuesday, March 8, 2022 at 4:00 p.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. Matt Brass (28th), Ex-Officio (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Gail Davenport (44th),
Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Ex-Officio (*Arrived Late and Left Early*)
Sen. Russ Goodman (8th)
Sen. Marty Harbin (16th)
Sen. Sally Harrell (40th)
Sen. Nikki Merritt (9th)
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th)

NOTE: Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th), Sen. Frank Ginn (47th), and Sen. Kim Jackson (41st) were absent.

Chairman Harper (7th) called the meeting to order at 4:08 p.m.

SB 553 (Sen. Robertson, 29th, LC 51 0099) Watercraft; any person 15 years of age or older to operate a Class 1, Class 2, or Class 3 vessel; authorize

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

NOTE: Sen. Brass (28th) and Sen. Gooch (51st) arrived at 4:12 p.m.

The Chair opened the floor for debate.

The Chair recognized Sen. Gooch (51st) who made a motion that **SR 553 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 51 0167S)**. Sen. Harbin (16th) seconded the motion. The motion passed 8-1.

Sen. Brass (28th), Sen. Davenport (44th), Sen. Gooch (51st), Sen. Goodman (8th), Sen. Harbin (16th), Sen. Harrell (40th), Sen. Merritt (9th), and Sen. McNeill (3rd) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Sims (12th) voted against the motion.

Committee Recommendation: SB 553 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 51 0167S)

SB 591 (Sen. Hatchett, 50th, LC 28 0498) Secondary Metals Recyclers; shall be illegal for certain persons to purchase, possess, obtain, or sell used, detached catalytic converters, used utility wire, or used communications copper; provide

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

Katherine Denney, SLM Recycling
Alex Bradford, Georgia Farm Bureau
Brian Hudson, Georgia Recyclers Association

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:

Bryan Tolor, Georgia Urban Ag Council

NOTE: Sen. Gooch (51st) left at 4:42 p.m.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Brass (28th) who made the motion to change “a” to “c” in line 154, change “\$3,000.00” to “\$1,500.00” on line 300, and change “Code Section 16-13-49” to “Chapter 16 of Title 9” on line 336. Sen. Harrell (40th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair recognized Sen. Harrell (40th) who made a motion to add “limited to two transactions per seller, per day” to the end of line 258. Sen. Merritt (9th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 5-3.

Sen. Sims (12th), Sen. Davenport (44th), Sen. McNeill (3rd), Sen. Merritt (9th), and Sen. Harrell (40th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Brass (28th), Sen. Harbin (16th), and Sen. Goodman (8th) voted against the motion.

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

The Chair recognized Sen. Brass (28th) who made the motion that **SB 591 Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Sims (12th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SB 591 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 44 2063S)

Chairman Harper (7th) adjourned the meeting at 4:53 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
Thursday, March 10, 2022**

The Senate Committee on Natural Resources and the Environment met on Thursday, March 10, 2022 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. Matt Brass (28th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Gail Davenport (44th)
Sen. Frank Ginn (47th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Steve Gooch (51st, Ex-Officio *(Arrived Late)*)
Sen. Russ Goodman (8th)
Sen. Sally Harrell (40th)
Sen. Kim Jackson (41st)
Sen. Nikki Merritt (9th)
Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd), Ex-Officio *(Arrived Late and Left Early)*
Sen. Randy Robertson (29th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Freddie Powell Simms (12th)

NOTE: Sen. Sheila McNeill (3rd), Sen. Marty Harbin (16th), and Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th) were absent.

NOTE: Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd) and Sen. Randy Robertson (29th) were appointed to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and the Environment, as Ex-Officio members, by the Committee on Assignments for the Meeting held on March 10, 2022. Copies of the letters of appointment are attached.

Chairman Harper called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

[HB 1349](#) (Rep. Ridley, 6th, LC 51 0090) Natural Resources, Dept. of; attempt to prevent net loss of land acreage available for hunting on state owned lands; extend date

The Chair recognized Rep. Jason Ridley (6th) for the purpose of presenting the bill to the Committee. Rep. Ridley (6th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for debate.

The Chair recognized Sen. Brass (28th) who made the motion that **HB 1349 Do Pass (LC 51 0090)**. Sen. Jackson (41st) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: HB 1349 DO PASS (LC 51 0090)

HB 1233 (Rep. Rhodes, 120th, LC 51 0108S) Natural Resources, Department of; earliest effective date for certain rules and regulations; delay

The Chair recognized Rep. Trey Rhodes (120th) for the purpose of presenting the bill to the Committee. Rep. Rhodes (120th) presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Mullis (53rd) arrived at 10:16 a.m.

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

Testimony in favor of the Bill:

Thom Litts, Department of Natural Resources
Major Stephen Adams, DNR Law Enforcement

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:

None

The Chair recognized Sen. Ginn who made a motion that **HB 1233 Do Pass (LC 51 0108S)**. Sen. Goodman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: HB 1233 DO PASS (LC 51 0108S)

HB 1147 (Rep. Rhodes, 120th, LC 51 0075) Game and fish; hunting and trapping of raccoons and opossum year round; authorize

The Chair recognized Rep. Rhodes (120th) for the purpose of presenting the bill to the Committee. Rep. Rhodes (120th) 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:

Emily Rushton, Department of Natural Resources
Tina Johansson, Department of Natural Resources

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:

Mark Woodall, Sierra Club
Mike Worley, Georgia Wildlife Federation

NOTE: Sen. Gooch (51st) arrived at 11:10 a.m.

NOTE: Sen. Mullis (53rd) left at 11:10 a.m.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Ginn (47th) who made the motion to add “on private land not operated by the department” on line 129. Sen. Goodman (8th) seconded the motion. The motion passed 8-2.

Sen. Brass (28th), Sen. Davenport (44th), Sen. Ginn (47th), Sen. Gooch (51st), Sen. Goodman (8th), Sen. Merritt (9th), Sen. Sims (12th), and Sen. Robertson (29th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Harrell (40th) and Sen. Jackson (41st) voted against of the motion.

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

The Chair recognized Sen. Brass (28th) who made the motion **HB 1147 Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Robertson (29th) seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-5.

Sen. Harper (7th), Sen. Brass (28th), Sen. Ginn (47th), Sen. Gooch (51st), Sen. Goodman (8th), and Sen. Robertson (29th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Davenport (44th), Sen. Harrell (40th), Sen. Jackson (41st), Sen. Merritt (9th), and Sen. Sims (12th) voted against the motion.

Committee Recommendation: HB 1147 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 51 0172S)

Chairman Harper (7th) adjourned the meeting at 11:28 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Emily Doppel, Recording Secretary



OFFICE OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
240 STATE CAPITOL
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334

GEOFF DUNCAN
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

March 10, 2022

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

Dear Mr. Cook,

In accordance with the Senate Rules, I hereby appoint Senator Jeff Mullis to serve as an Ex-Officio for the Senate Natural Resources Committee on March 10, 2022.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Geoff Duncan".

Geoff Duncan
Lieutenant Governor

cc: Senator Tyler Harper, Chairman



OFFICE OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
240 STATE CAPITOL
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334

GEOFF DUNCAN
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

March 10, 2022

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

Dear Mr. Cook,

In accordance with the Senate Rules, I hereby appoint Senator Randy Robertson to serve as an Ex-Officio for the Senate Natural Resources Committee on March 10, 2022.

Sincerely,

Geoff Duncan
Lieutenant Governor

cc: Senator Tyler Harper, Chairman