

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
2021-2022 ROSTER**

Sen. Lindsey Tippins, *Chairman*

District 37
139 Midway Road
Marietta, GA 30064

Sen. Brian Strickland, *Vice-Chairman*

District 17
P.O. Box 1895
McDonough, GA 30253

Sen. Chuck Payne, *Secretary*

District 54
P.O. Box 1074
Dalton, GA 30722

Sen. Brandon Beach, *Ex-Officio*

District 21
3100 Brierfield Road
Alpharetta, GA 30004

Sen. Max Burns

District 23
P.O. Box 203
Sylvania, GA 30467

Sen. Sally Harrell

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

Sen. Billy Hickman

District 4
P.O. Box 25
Statesboro, GA 30459

Sen. Chuck Hufstetler, *Ex-Officio*

District 52
3 Orchard Spring Drive
Rome, GA 30165

Sen. Jen Jordan

District 6
P.O. Box 250614
Atlanta, GA 30325

Sen. Nan Orrock

District 36
1070 Delaware Avenue SE
Atlanta, GA 30316

Sen. Michael “Doc” Rhett, *Ex-Officio*

District 33
P.O. Box 777
Marietta, GA 30061

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
2021-2022 RULES**

1. These Committee Rules of Operations shall be consistent with Senate Rule 2-1.5(d) regarding the establishment of Rules of Operation.
2. Quorum of the Committee shall be (5) members.
3. The Chairman shall have the authority to refer bills and resolutions 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. The Committee shall convene, recess and adjourn upon the order of the Chairman.
6. A bill or resolution will be considered only after presentation by its principal author or other legislator whom he/she may designate. The principal author shall be the legislator whose name first appears on the list of authors.
7. 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.
8. 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 if they so desire.
9. These rules may be amended upon a motion duly made and subsequently approved by two-thirds of the members of the Committee.
10. Where these rules are silent on a specific issue, the Rules of the Senate as adopted shall govern. (Senate Rule 2)

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Higher Education
Tuesday, February 1, 2022**

The Senate Committee on Higher Education held a meeting on Tuesday, February 1st at 1:00 p.m. in Room 450 of the State Capitol. The following Committee members were in attendance:

Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th), Chairman
Sen. Brian Strickland (17th), Vice-Chairman (*Arrived Late*) (*Left Early*)
Sen. Chuck Payne (54th), Secretary
Sen. Brandon Beach (21st)
Sen. Max Burns (23rd)
Sen. Sally Harrell (40th)
Sen. Billy Hickman (4th)
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd)
Sen. Jennifer Jordan (6th)
Sen. Nan Orrock (36th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Michael “Doc” Rhett (33rd) (*Arrived Late*)

Chairman Tippins (37th) called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

SB 333 (Sen. Albers, 56th, LC 49 0679) Education; agents and agent's permits; to repeal definitions of such terms; provisions; remove

The Chair stated that SB 333 would receive a hearing only.

The Chair recognized Sen. John Albers (56th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Albers (56th) and Mr. Kirk Shook of the Georgia Nonpublic Postsecondary Education Commission (GNPEC) presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Brian Strickland (17th) arrived at 1:04 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Orrock (36th) arrived at 1:06 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Rhett (33rd) arrived at 1:11 p.m.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

NOTE: Sen. Brian Strickland (17th) left at 1:44 p.m.

Committee Recommendation: SB 333 (LC 49 0679) No action was taken.

Chairman Tippins (37th) adjourned the meeting at 2:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Chuck Payne (54th), Secretary

/s/ Kalen Banks, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Higher Education
Wednesday, February 9, 2022**

The Senate Committee on Higher Education held a meeting on Wednesday, February 9th at 11:00 a.m. in Room 450 of the State Capitol. The following Committee members were in attendance:

Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th), Chairman
Sen. Chuck Payne (54th), Secretary
Sen. Brandon Beach (21st)
Sen. Max Burns (23rd)
Sen. Sally Harrell (40th)
Sen. Billy Hickman (4th)
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd)
Sen. Jennifer Jordan (6th)
Sen. Nan Orrock (36th)
Sen. Michael “Doc” Rhett (33rd) (*Arrived Late*)

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

Chairman Tippins (37th) called the meeting to order at 11:12 a.m.

SB 397 (Sen. Goodman, 8th, LC 50 0241-EC) General Educational Development (GED) Diplomas; update and replace terminology; state approved high school equivalency (HSE) diplomas; provide

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

The Chair recognized Sen. Russ Goodman (8th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Goodman (8th) presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Orrock (36th) left at 11:13 a.m.

NOTE: Sen. Orrock (36th) returned at 11:15 a.m.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

Committee Recommendation: SB 397 (LC 50 0241-EC) No action was taken.

NOTE: Sen. Rhett (33rd) arrived at 11:24 a.m.

Chairman Tippins (37th) adjourned the meeting at 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Chuck Payne (54th), Secretary

/s/ Kalen Banks, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Higher Education
Tuesday, February 15, 2022**

The Senate Committee on Higher Education held a meeting on Tuesday, February 15th at 1:00 p.m. in Room 450 of the State Capitol. The following Committee members were in attendance:

Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th), Chairman
Sen. Brian Strickland (17th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Chuck Payne (54th), Secretary
Sen. Brandon Beach (21st)
Sen. Max Burns (23rd)
Sen. Sally Harrell (40th)
Sen. Billy Hickman (4th)
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd) (*Left Early*)
Sen. Nan Orrock (36th)
Sen. Michael “Doc” Rhett (33rd) (*Arrived Late*)

NOTE: Sen. Jennifer Jordan (6th) was absent.

Chairman Tippins (37th) called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

SB 397 (Sen. Goodman, 8th, LC 50 0241-EC) General Educational Development (GED) Diplomas; update and replace terminology; state approved high school equivalency (HSE) diplomas; provide

The Chair recognized Sen. Russ Goodman (8th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Goodman (8th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Hufstetler (52nd) who made a motion that **SB 397 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 50 0321-ECS)**. Sen. Beach (21st) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

NOTE: Sen. Hufstetler (52nd) left at 1:06 p.m.

Committee Recommendation: SB 397 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 50 0321-ECS)

SB 490 (Sen. Strickland, 17th, LC 49 0607) Tuition Equalization Grants; definition of approved school; revise

The Chair stated that SB 490 would receive a hearing only.

The Chair recognized Sen. Strickland (17th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Strickland (17th) presented the bill to the Committee.

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

Testimony in favor of the Bill:

Josh Huffaker, President of South College

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:

None

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

Committee Recommendation: SB 490 (LC 49 0607) No action was taken.

SB 509 (Sen. Parent, 42nd, LC 50 0338) “Dual Enrollment Act”; Technical College System of Georgia and the University System of Georgia to provide the Georgia Student Finance Commission with a course transfer chart; require

The Chair stated that SB 509 would receive a hearing only.

The Chair recognized Sen. Elena Parent (42nd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Parent (42nd) presented the bill to the Committee.

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

Testimony neutral to the Bill:

Ashley Jones and Casey Tanner from the University Systems of Georgia

Lynne Riley of Georgia Student Finance

Mark Peevy of Technical College System of Georgia

NOTE: Sen. Rhett (33rd) arrived at 1:31 p.m.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

Committee Recommendation: SB 509 (LC 50 0338) No action was taken.

Chairman Tippins (37th) adjourned the meeting at 1:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Chuck Payne (54th), Secretary

/s/ Kalen Banks, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Higher Education
Tuesday, February 22, 2022**

The Senate Committee on Higher Education held a meeting on Tuesday, February 22nd at 1:00 p.m. in Room 450 of the State Capitol. The following Committee members were in attendance:

Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th), Chairman
Sen. Chuck Payne (54th), Secretary
Sen. Brandon Beach (21st)
Sen. Max Burns (23rd)
Sen. Sally Harrell (40th)
Sen. Billy Hickman (4th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Jennifer Jordan (6th)
Sen. Nan Orrock (36th)
Sen. Michael “Doc” Rhett (33rd) (*Arrived Late*)

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

Chairman Tippins (37th) called the meeting to order at 1:14 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Hickman (4th) arrived at 1:16 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Rhett (33rd) arrived at 1:19 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Hufstetler (52nd) arrived at 1:21 p.m.

SB 508 (Sen. Parent, 42nd, LC 50 0326) "Dual Enrollment Act"; Georgia Student Finance Commission to establish participation and performance targets for the program; require

The Chair stated that SB 508 would receive a hearing only.

The Chair recognized Sen. Elena Parent (42nd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Parent (42nd) presented the bill to the Committee.

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

Testimony neutral to the Bill:
Jennifer Ellis from All4Ed

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

Committee Recommendation: SB 508 (LC 50 0326) No action was taken.

Presentation: Georgia Coalition for Higher Education in Prisons

The Chair recognized Patrick Rodriguez, Georgia Coalition for Higher Education in Prisons, to give the Presentation.

The Chair recognized Dr. Sarah Higinbotham, Common Good Atlanta, to continue the Presentation.

Chairman Tippins (37th) adjourned the meeting at 1:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Chuck Payne (54th), Secretary

/s/ Kalen Banks, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Higher Education
Tuesday, March 1, 2022**

The Senate Committee on Higher Education held a meeting on Tuesday, March 1 at 3:00 p.m. in Room 450 of the State Capitol. The following Committee members were in attendance:

Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th), Chairman
Sen. Chuck Payne (54th), Secretary (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Brandon Beach (21st)
Sen. Max Burns (23rd)
Sen. Sally Harrell (40th)
Sen. Billy Hickman (4th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Nan Orrock (36th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Michael “Doc” Rhett (33rd)

NOTE: Sen. Brian Strickland (17th) and Sen. Jennifer Jordan (6th) were absent.

Chairman Tippins (37th) called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Orrock (36th) arrived at 3:05 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Payne (54th) arrived at 3:10 p.m.

Presentation: Partnership for Inclusive Innovation

The Chair recognized Debra Lam, Partnership for Inclusive Innovation, to give the Presentation.

NOTE: Sen. Hufstetler (52nd) arrived at 3:18 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Hickman (4th) arrived at 3:23 p.m.

SB 333 (Sen. Albers, 56th, LC 49 0679) Education; agents and agent's permits; to repeal definitions of such terms; provisions; remove

The Chair recognized Sen. John Albers (56th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. John Albers (56th) and Mr. Kirk Shook of the Georgia Nonpublic Postsecondary Education Commission (GNPEC) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Payne (54th) who made a motion to **Amend** the bill as such:

- On lines 543, 553, and 559, strike “500,000 dollars” and replace with “10 million dollars”
- On line 550, strike “\$475,000” and replace with “4 million dollars”
- On line 633, strike “unanimous vote” and replace with “2/3rd majority vote”

Sen. Beach (21st) 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. Hufstetler (52nd) who made a motion that **SB 333 Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Burns (23rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SB 333 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 50 0369S)

SB 239 (Sen. Harrell, 40th, LC 49 0338) **Education; tuition and mandatory student fees for students enrolled in a unit of the University System of Georgia; calculated and assessed on a per credit hour basis; provide**

The Chair stated that SB 239 would receive a hearing only.

The Chair recognized Sen. Harrell (40th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Harrell (40th) presented the bill to the Committee.

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

Testimony neutral to the Bill:

Teresa McCartney of the Board of Regents

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

Committee Recommendation: SB 239 (LC 49 0338) No action was taken.

Chairman Tippins (37th) adjourned the meeting at 3:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Chuck Payne (54th), Secretary

/s/ Kalen Banks, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Higher Education
Tuesday, March 22, 2022**

The Senate Committee on Higher Education held a meeting on Tuesday, March 22nd at 1:00 p.m. in Room 450 of the State Capitol. The following Committee members were in attendance:

Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th), Chairman
Sen. Chuck Payne (54th), Secretary
Sen. Brandon Beach (21st)
Sen. Max Burns (23rd)
Sen. Sally Harrell (40th)
Sen. Billy Hickman (4th)
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd)
Sen. Nan Orrock (36th)

NOTE: Sen. Brian Strickland (17th), Sen. Jennifer Jordan (6th) and Sen. Michael Rhett (33rd) were absent.

Chairman Tippins (37th) called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

[HB 1435](#) (Rep. Martin, 49th, LC 50 0377S) Education; needs based financial aid program; include eligibility for students with a financial aid gap

The Chair stated that HB 1435 would receive a hearing only.

The Chair recognized Rep. Chuck Martin (49th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Martin (49th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public.

Testimony in favor of the Bill:

Korynn Schooley, Achieve Atlanta

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:

None

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

Committee Recommendation: HB 1435 (LC 50 0377S) No action was taken.

[HB 1043](#) (Rep. Jasperse, 11th, LC 49 0683) Georgia Endowment for Teaching Professionals; create

The Chair stated that HB 1043 would receive a hearing only.

The Chair recognized Rep. Rick Jasperse (11th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Jasperse (11th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

Committee Recommendation: HB 1043 (LC 49 0683) No action was taken.

HB 1319 (Rep. Werkheiser, 157th, LC 50 0371S) Georgia Student Finance Authority; provide for Georgia LEO Scholarship Grant

The Chair stated that HB 1319 would receive a hearing only.

The Chair recognized Rep. Bill Werkheiser (157th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Werkheiser (157th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public.

Testimony neutral to the bill:

Lynne Riley, Georgia Student Finance

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

Committee Recommendation: HB 1319 (LC 50 0371S) No action was taken.

HB 1515 (Rep. Bentley, 139th, LC 50 0355) Education; tuition equalization grants at private colleges and universities; revise definition of approved school

The Chair stated that HB 1515 would receive a hearing only.

The Chair recognized Andrew Long of Andrew Long Company for the purpose of presenting the bill. Andrew Long presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public.

Testimony in favor of the Bill:

Andrew Long, Andrew Long Company

Dr. Kevin James, President of Morris Brown College

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:

None

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

Committee Recommendation: HB 1515 (LC 50 0355) No action was taken.

Chairman Tippins (37th) adjourned the meeting at 1:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Chuck Payne (54th), Secretary

/s/ Kalen Banks, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Higher Education
Tuesday, March 29, 2022**

The Senate Committee on Higher Education held a meeting on Tuesday, March 29nd at 1:00 p.m. in Room 450 of the State Capitol. The following Committee members were in attendance:

Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th), Chairman
Sen. Chuck Payne (54th), Secretary
Sen. Max Burns (23rd)
Sen. Sally Harrell (40th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Billy Hickman (4th)
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Jennifer Jordan (6th)
Sen. Nan Orrock (36th)
Sen. Michael “Doc” Rhett (33rd) (*Arrived Late*)

NOTE: Sen. Brian Strickland (17th) and Sen. Brandon Beach (21st) were absent.

Chairman Tippins (37th) called the meeting to order at 1:42 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Hufstetler (52nd) arrived at 1:47 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Harrell (40th) arrived at 1:51 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Rhett (33rd) arrived at 1:56 p.m.

[HB 1435](#) (Rep. Martin, 49th, LC 50 0377S) Education; needs based financial aid program; include eligibility for students with a financial aid gap

The Chair recognized Rep. Chuck Martin (49th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Martin (49th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Burns (23rd) who made a motion that **HB 1435 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 50 0402S)**. Sen. Hickman (4th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: HB 1435 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 50 0402S)

[HB 291](#) (Rep. Dempsey, 13th, LC 49 0472S) Education; tuition equalization grants at private colleges and universities; expand definition of approved school

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. The chair recognized:

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Shawn Little, Atlanta Campus President of Chamberlain University

Testimony in opposition of the bill:

None

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair made a motion to **Amend** the bill by striking “July 1, 2022” on line 96 and replacing it with “July 1, 2023”. Sen. Hickman (4th) 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. Burns (23rd) who made a motion that **HB 291 Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Orrock (36th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: HB 291 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 50 0403S)

HB 1319 (Rep. Werkheiser, 157th, LC 50 0371S) Georgia Student Finance Authority; provide for Georgia LEO Scholarship Grant

The Chair recognized Rep. Bill Werkheiser (157th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Werkheiser (157th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Hufstetler (52nd) who made a motion that **HB 1319 Do Pass (LC 50 0371S)**. Sen. Hickman (4th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: HB 1319 DO PASS (LC 50 0371S)

HB 1043 (Rep. Jasperse, 11th, LC 49 0683) Georgia Endowment for Teaching Professionals; create

The Chair recognized Rep. Rick Jasperse (11th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Jasperse (11th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Hufstetler (52nd) who made a motion that **HB 1043 Do Pass (LC 49 0683)**. Sen. Orrock (36th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: HB 1043 DO PASS (LC 49 0683)

Chairman Tippins (37th) adjourned the meeting at 2:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Chuck Payne (54th), Secretary

/s/ Kalen Banks, Recording Secretary