

**THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY  
2021-2022 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**  
325-A CLOB  
Atlanta, GA 30334

**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**  
121-A State Capitol  
Atlanta, GA 30334

**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**  
**Tuesday, November 16th, 2021**

The Senate Committee on Judiciary met on Tuesday November 16th, 2021, at 2:30 p.m., in Room 310 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building (CLOB). The following Committee Members were in attendance.

Sen. Brian Strickland (17th), Chairman  
Sen. Harold Jones II (22nd)  
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd)  
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd)  
Sen. Michael “Doc” Rhett (33rd)

Chairman Strickland (17th) called the meeting to order at 2:32 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Sen. John Kennedy (18th), Sen. Blake Tillery (19th), Sen. Ben Watson (1st) and Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th) were absent.

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

The Chair stated that the bill would receive a hearing only.

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

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

*Testimony in opposition to the bill:*

Vasu Abhiramon, ACLU of Georgia  
Andres Lopez-Delgado, ACLU of Georgia  
Jill Travis, Georgia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers

**Committee Recommendation: SB 171 (LC 41 2918) No action was taken.**

**SB 257 (Sen. Anderson, 43rd, LC 41 3015) Georgia Crime Information Center; Criminal History Record Restrictions for certain persons cited with or convicted of certain criminal offenses; provide**

The Chair stated that the bill would receive a hearing only.

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

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

*Testimony in favor of the bill:*

Brenda Smith, Georgia Justice Project

Wade Askew, Georgia Justice Project

**Committee Recommendation: SB 257 (LC 41 3015) No action was taken.**

Chairman Strickland (17th) adjourned the meeting at 4:27p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Sky Park, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**  
**Monday, January 24, 2022**

The Senate Committee on Judiciary met on Monday, January 24, 2022 at 2:00 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. Bo Hatchett (50th)  
Sen. Harold Jones II (22nd)  
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd)  
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd)  
Sen. Michael “Doc” Rhett (33rd) (*Arrived Late*)  
Sen. Blake Tillery (19th) (*Left Early*)

**NOTE:** Sen. Ben Watson (1st) was absent.

Chairman Strickland (17th) called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Rhett (33rd) arrived late at 2:08 p.m.

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

The Chair stated that the bill would receive a hearing only.

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 to the public. He recognized the following:

*Testimony in favor of the bill:*

Judge Paige Whitaker, Fulton County Superior Court Judge

Kylee Elliott, Georgia Council on Family Violence Staff

*Testimony in opposition to the bill:*

Mazie Lynn Guertin, Georgia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers

**NOTE:** Sen. Parent (42nd) left at 2:34 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Parent (42nd) returned at 2:40 p.m.

**Committee Recommendation: SB 197 No action was taken (LC 28 0189)**

**SB 332 (Sen. Albers, 56th, LC 36 4947) “Inform Consumers 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 to the public. He recognized the following:

*Testimony in favor of the bill:*

Stephen Loftin, GA Retail Association  
Hillary Thrower and Kelly Harrington, Home Depot  
Carlos Gonzalez, Walgreens  
Glen Wilkins, Walmart  
Amanda Seals, Cobb Chamber  
Brian Hudson, CVS  
Kathy Kuzava, GA Food Industry Association

*Testimony in opposition to the bill:*

Jay Morgan, eBay  
John Watson, Amazon

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Parent (42nd) who made a motion that **SB 332 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 36 50015)**. Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

**NOTE:** Sen. Parent (42nd) left at 3:17 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Parent (42nd) returned at 3:21 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Kennedy (18th) left at 3:43 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Tillery (19th) left at 3:43 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Kennedy (18th) returned at 3:47 p.m.

**Committee Recommendation: SB 332 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 36 5001S)**

Chairman Strickland (17th) adjourned the meeting at 4:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Sky Park, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**  
**Tuesday, February 1, 2022**

The Senate Committee on Judiciary met on Tuesday, February 1, 2022 at 4:00 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. Bo Hatchett (50th)  
Sen. Harold Jones II (22nd) (*Arrived Late*)  
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd) (*Arrived Late*)  
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd)  
Sen. Michael “Doc” Rhett (33rd) (*Arrived Late*)  
Sen. Blake Tillery (19th) (*Arrived Late*)  
Sen. Ben Watson (1st)

Chairman Strickland (17th) called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) arrived late at 4:12 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Jones (22nd) arrived late at 4:15 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Rhett (33rd) arrived late at 4:25 p.m.

**SB 257 (Sen. Anderson, 43rd, LC 41 3015) Georgia Crime Information Center; criminal history record restrictions for certain persons cited with or convicted of certain criminal offenses; provide**

The Chair recognized Sen. Tonya Anderson (43rd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Anderson (43rd) presented the bill to the Committee alongside Mr. Wade Askew from Georgia Justice Project.

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

*Testimony in favor of the bill:*

Thomas Weaver, private citizen  
Wade Askew, Georgia Justice Project  
Robert Smith, Prosecuting Attorney’s Council

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Jones (22nd) who made a motion to add in line 9 to add the phrase, “to provide for exceptions to retroactive grants of first offender treatment and discharge;”, in line 82 insert the phrase, “and subsection d,” in line 93 the phrase, “provided, however, that no relief pursuant to this subsection may be given on a conviction that was used as the underlying conviction for a conviction for violating Code Section 16-11-131 or if the conviction was used to



enhance a sentence pursuant to Code Section 17-10-7.” 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 Sen. Jones (22nd) who made a motion that **SB 257 Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Parent (42nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

**Committee Recommendation: SB 257 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 49 0797S)**

**SB 319 (Sen. Anavitarte, 31st, LC 28 0017) "Georgia Constitutional Carry Act of 2021"; enact**

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. Tillery (19th) arrived late at 4:47 p.m.

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

*Testimony in favor of the bill:*

Aaron Door, Georgia Gun Owners  
Bethany Young, National Association for Gun Rights  
Thomas Weaver, Private Citizen  
Luis Estrada, Georgia 2nd Amendment

*Testimony in opposition to the bill:*

Lizzie Stallman, Rothschilds Social Justice Institute  
Fallon McClure, Working Families Party  
Bentley Hudgins, an Organizer

*Testimony neutral on the bill:*

April Ross, Georgia Commission on Family Violence  
Sam Olens, Dentons

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Parent (42nd) who made a motion to delete on line 200 the word, “or”, on line 203 deleting the period at the end of the line and replacing it with, “; and”, and adding on line 203 the phrase, “(8) on properties owned or managed by the Georgia World Congress Center Authority.” The motion was seconded by Sen. Jones (42nd). The motion failed by a vote of (3-6).

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

Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Hatchett (50th), Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd), Sen. Tillery (19th), and Sen. Watson (1st) voted against the amendment.

The Chair then recognized Sen. Hatchett (50th) who made a motion that **SB 319 Do Pass (28 0017)** Sen. Kennedy (18th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of (6-3).

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

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

**NOTE:** Sen. Cowsert (46th) left at 5:53 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Kennedy (18th) left at 5:55 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Kennedy (18th) returned at 5:58 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Watson (1st) left the room at 5:59 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Cowsert (46th) returned at 6:00 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Watson (1st) returned at 6:04 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Rhett (33rd) left at 6:10 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Rhett (33rd) returned at 6:12 p.m.

**Committee Recommendation: SB 319 Do Pass (LC 28 0017)**

Chairman Strickland (17th) adjourned the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Sky Park, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**  
**Monday, February 7, 2022**

The Senate Committee on Judiciary met on Monday, February 7, 2022 at 2:00 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. Bo Hatchett (50th)  
Sen. Harold Jones II (22nd)  
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd)  
Sen. Michael “Doc” Rhett (33rd)  
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd)  
Sen. Ben Watson (1st)

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

Chairman Strickland (17th) called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Cowsert (46th) arrived late at 2:06 p.m.

**SB 316 (Sen. Anavitarte, 31st, LC 49 0555) Stalking; a person 18 years old or older who commits the offense of stalking against a minor shall be guilty of a high and aggravated misdemeanor; provide**

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 to the public. He recognized the following:

*Testimony in favor of the Bill:*

Cooper Guyon, Student Advisor to Sen. Anavitarte (31st)  
Matthew Rollins, Acting District Attorney in Paulding County  
Sergeant Mitchell, Paulding County Sheriff’s Dept.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Kennedy (18th) who made a motion that **SB 316 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 49 0783S)** Sen. Watson (1st) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of (7-1).

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

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

**Committee Recommendation: SB 316 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 49 0783S)**

**SB 359** (Sen. Albers, 56th, LC 49 0753) “Safe and Secure Georgia Act”; enact

The chair indicated that this bill would receive a hearing only.

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

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

*Testimony in Opposition to the bill:*

Thomas Weaver, private citizen

Mazie Lynn Guertin, Georgia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers

**NOTE:** Sen. Hatchett left at 2:32 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Hatchett returned at 2:37 p.m.

**Committee Recommendation: SB 359 (LC 49 0753) No action was taken.**

Chairman Strickland (17th) adjourned the meeting at 2:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Sky Park, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**  
**Tuesday, February 8, 2022**

The Senate Committee on Judiciary met on Tuesday, February 8, 2022 at 4:00 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*) (*Left Early*)  
Sen. John Kennedy (18th), Secretary (*Arrived Late*)  
Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th)  
Sen. Harold Jones II (22nd) (*Arrived Late*)  
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd)  
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd)  
Sen. Michael “Doc” Rhett (33rd) (*Arrived Late*)  
Sen. Ben Watson (1st)  
Sen. Blake Tillery (19th) (*Left Early*)

Chairman Strickland (17th) called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Rhett (33rd) arrived late at 4:08 p.m.

**SB 359** (Sen. Albers, 56th, LC 49 0753) “Safe and Secure Georgia Act”; enact

The Chair stated that the bill would receive a hearing only.

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

**NOTE:** Sen. Rhett (33rd) left at 4:11 p.m.  
**NOTE:** Sen. Rhett (33rd) returned at 4:19 p.m.  
**NOTE:** Sen. Jones (22nd) arrived late at 4:22 p.m.  
**NOTE:** Sen. Kennedy (18th) arrived late at 4:24 p.m.  
**NOTE:** Sen. Cowsert (46th) arrived late at 4:25 p.m.

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

*Testimony in favor of the bill:*

Fani Willis, Fulton County District Attorney  
John Floyd  
John Melvin, GBI  
Kathy Gosselin, Dawson + Hall  
Bob Bray, Council of State Court Judges

*Testimony in opposition to the bill:*

Jill Travis, Georgia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers

**Committee Recommendation: SB 359 No action was taken (LC 49 0753)**

**SB 360** (Sen. McNeill, 3rd, LC 48 0468) “Colton’s Law”; enact

The Chair recognized Sen. Sheila McNeill (3rd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. McNeill (3rd) presented the bill to the Committee.

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

*Testimony in favor of the bill:*  
Will Johnson, PAC

*Testimony in opposition to the bill:*  
Jill Travis, Georgia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) who made a motion that **SB 360 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 49 0832S)**. Sen. Parent (42nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

**NOTE:** Sen. Tillery (19th) left the room at 5:03 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Jones (22nd) left at 5:11 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Jones (22nd) returned at 5:13 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Cowsert (46th) left at 5:15 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Jones (22nd) left at 5:18 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Jones (22nd) returned at 5:26 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Kennedy (18th) left at 5:27 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Kennedy (18th) returned at 5:30 p.m.

**Committee Recommendation: SB 360 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 0832S)**

**SB 354** (Sen. Rhett, 33rd, LC 47 1140) Annexation; notice to residential tenants; provide

The Chair stated this bill would receive a hearing only.

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

**Committee Recommendation: SB 354 No action was taken (LC 47 1140)**

Chairman Strickland (17th) adjourned the meeting at 5:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Sky Park, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**  
**Monday, February 14, 2022**

The Senate Committee on Judiciary met on Monday, February 14, 2022 at 2:00 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*) (*Left Early*)  
/s/ Sen. John Kennedy (18th), Secretary  
Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th)  
Sen. Harold Jones II (22nd) (*Arrived Late*)  
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd)  
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd)  
Sen. Michael “Doc” Rhett (33rd) (*Arrived Late*)  
Sen. Ben Watson (1st)

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

Chairman Strickland (17th) called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Jones (22nd) arrived late at 2:06 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Cowsert (46th) arrived late at 2:11 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Rhett (33rd) arrived late at 2:15 p.m.

**SB 439 (Sen. Tippins, 37th, LC 49 0732) Dispossession Proceedings; the owner of a property or tenement at issue in a dispossession proceeding shall be allowed to appear during a trial of the issues individually; provide**

The Chair stated that SB 439 would receive a hearing only.

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 to the public. He recognized the following:

*Testimony seeking amendment to the bill:*

Lindsey Siegel, Atlanta Legal Aid Society

Elizabeth Appley, Enterprise Community Partners, Georgia ACT, 9 to 5 GA, Presbyterians for a better GA

**NOTE:** Sen. Cowsert (46th) left early at 2:41 p.m.

**Committee Recommendation: SB 439 No action was taken (LC 49 0732)**



**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 recognized Sen. Ed Harbison (15th) for the purpose of presenting the bill.  
Sen. Harbison (15th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair recognized Sen. Rhett (33rd) who made a motion that **SB 54 Do Pass (LC 41 2782)**.  
Sen. Jones (22nd) seconded the motion. The bill passed unanimously (7-0).

**Committee Recommendation: SB 54 Do Pass (LC 41 2782)**

**SB 395** (Sen. Hatchett, 50th, LC 49 0737) **Mountain Judicial Circuit; third judge of the superior courts; provide**

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

The Chair recognized Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) who made a motion that **SB 395 Do Pass (LC 49 0737)**. Sen. Kennedy (18th) seconded the motion. The bill passed unanimously (7-0).

**Committee Recommendation: SB 395 Do Pass (LC 49 0737)**

Chairman Strickland (17th) adjourned the meeting at 2:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Sky Park, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**  
**Tuesday, February 15, 2022**

The Senate Committee on Judiciary met on Tuesday, February 15, 2022 at 4:00 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. Bo Hatchett (50th)  
Sen. Harold Jones II (22nd) (*Arrived Late*)  
Sen. Michael “Doc” Rhett (33rd) (*Arrived Late*)  
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd)  
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd) (*Arrived Late*)  
Sen. Ben Watson (1st) (*Left Early*)

Chairman Strickland (17th) called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Parent (42nd) arrived late at 4:07 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Jones (22nd) arrived late at 4:08 p.m.

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

**SB 359** (Sen. Albers, 56th, LC 49 0753) “Safe and Secure Georgia 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 to the public. He recognized the following:

*Testimony in favor of the bill:*

George Jenkins, Fulton County District Attorney’s Office

April Ross, GA Commission on Family Violence

John Floyd, Fulton County District Attorney’s Office

*Testimony in opposition to the bill:*

Judge Wes Tailor, Council of State Court Judges

**NOTE:** Sen. Kennedy (18th) arrived late at 4:35 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Rhett (33rd) arrived late at 4:40 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Cowsert (46th) arrived late at 4:50 p.m.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Cowser (46th) who made a motion to add an amendment that would add “no trial or evidentiary hearing shall be conducted remotely over objection of the parties” to line 293. Sen. Kennedy (18th) seconded the amendment. The motion passed with a unanimous vote (8-0).

The Chair recognized Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) who made a motion to add an amendment to change the word “should” to “may” on line 217. Sen. Parent (42nd) seconded the amendment. The motion passed with a unanimous vote (8-0).

The Chair recognized Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) who made a motion to add an amendment that would change the word “remote” to “telephone and video conferencing” on lines 289, 294, and 303. Sen. Rhett (33rd) seconded the amendment. The motion passed with a unanimous vote (8-0).

The Chair recognized Sen. Kennedy (18th) who made a motion to add an amendment to strike the words “or innocence” on line 290. Sen. Rhett (33rd) seconded the amendment. The motion passed with a unanimous vote (8-0).

The Chair recognized Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) who made a motion to add an amendment to add the words, “child or current pregnancy” to line 244. Sen. Rhett (33rd) seconded the amendment. The motion passed with a unanimous vote (8-0).

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

The Chair recognized Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) who made a motion that **SB 359 Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Watson (1st) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of (5-3).

Sen. Cowser (46th), Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Hatchett (50th), Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd), and Sen. Watson (1st) voted in favor of the motion

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

**Committee Recommendation: SB 359 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 49 0862S)**

**SB 382 (Sen. Robertson, 29th, LC 49 0686) Child Molestation; misdemeanor convictions for the offense of aggravated child molestation by raising the minimum age of victims from 13 to 14; revise provisions**

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

**NOTE:** Sen. Watson (1st) left at 5:38 p.m.

The Chair opened the floor to the public He recognized the following:

*Testimony in favor of the bill:*

John Melvin, GBI

*Testimony neutral to the bill:*

Mazie Lynn Guertin, Georgia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Kennedy (18th) who made a motion that **SB 382 Do Pass (LC 49 0686)**. Sen. Hatchett (50th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

**Committee Recommendation: SB 382 Do Pass (LC 49 0686)**

Chairman Strickland (17th) adjourned the meeting at 5:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Sky Park, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**  
**Tuesday, February 22, 2022**

The Senate Committee on Judiciary met on Tuesday, February 22, 2022 at 4:00 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*) (*Left Early*)  
Sen. John Kennedy (18th), Secretary (*Arrived Late*) (*Left Early*)  
Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th)  
Sen. Harold Jones II (22nd) (*Left Early*)  
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd)  
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd)  
Sen. Michael “Doc” Rhett (33rd) (*Arrived Late*)  
Sen. Ben Watson (1st) (*Left Early*)

Chairman Strickland (17th) called the meeting to order at 4:07 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Blake Tillery (19th) was not present.

**[SB 378](#) (Sen. Albers, 56th, LC 49 0723) Reckless Conduct; definition of hazing; expand**

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 to the public. He recognized the following:

*Testimony in opposition to the bill:*

Mazie Lynn Guertin, Georgia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers

The Chair recognized Sen. Hatchett (50th) who made a motion that **SB 378 Do Pass**. Sen. Watson (1st) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

**Committee Recommendation: SB 378 (LC 49 0723) Do Pass.**

**[SB 471](#) (Sen. Robertson, 29th, LC 44 1915) Sales Under Execution; online public sales under tax levies and executions; authorize**

The Chair stated that SB 471 would receive a hearing only.

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

**NOTE:** Sen. Kennedy (18th) arrived late at 4:43 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Rhett (33rd) arrived late at 4:43 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Cowsert (46th) arrived at 5:04 p.m.

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

*Testimony in favor of the bill:*

Terry Norris, GA Sheriff's Association

*Testimony in opposition to the bill:*

Buddy Ramsey, Investa

**Committee Recommendation: SB 471 (LC 44 2003S) No action taken.**

**SB 380** (Sen. Robertson, 29th, LC 49 0687) **Imputable Negligence; remove vicious or dangerous requirement before an animal owner may be liable for injuries caused by his or her animal**

The Chair stated that SB 380 would receive a hearing only.

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

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

*Testimony in opposition to the bill:*

Claudine Wilkins, Animal Law Expert

**NOTE:** Sen. Cowsert (46th) arrived at 5:04 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Jones (22nd) left early at 5:09 p.m.

**Committee Recommendation: SB 380 (LC 49 0687) No action taken.**

**SB 381** (Sen. Robertson, 29th, LC 49 0690) **Pimping and Pandering; penalty provisions; increase**

The Chair stated that this bill would receive a hearing only.

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

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

*Testimony in favor of the bill:*

Taylor Hawkins, Frontline Policy

**NOTE:** Sen. Kennedy left early at 5:28 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Cowsert (46th) left early at 5:28 p.m.

**Committee Recommendation: SB 381 No action taken (LC 44 2003S)**

Chairman Strickland (17th) adjourned the meeting at 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Sky Park, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**  
**Wednesday, February 23, 2022**

The Senate Committee on Judiciary met on Wednesday, February 23, 2022 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  
Sen. John Kennedy (18th), Secretary  
Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th)  
Sen. Harold Jones II (22nd)  
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd) (*Left Early*)  
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd) (*Arrived Late*)  
Sen. Michael “Doc” Rhett (33rd) (*Arrived Late*)  
Sen. Ben Watson (1st) (*Left Early*)

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

Chairman Strickland (17th) called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m.

**[SB 493](#) (Sen. Mullis, 53rd, LC 36 5090) Time-Share Projects and Programs; nonjudicial foreclosure of time-share estates; authorize**

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

**NOTE:** Sen. Rhett (33rd) arrived late at 9:19 a.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Hatchett (50th) who made a motion that **SB 493 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 36 5167S)**. Sen. Rhett (33rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

**Committee Recommendation: SB 493 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 36 5167S)**

**[SB 500](#) (Sen. Strickland, 17th, LC 44 1911) Commerce; a litigation bar on governmental entities regarding certain statewide opioid litigation; provide**

**NOTE:** Sen. Parent (42nd) arrived at 9:22 a.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Cowsert (46th) assumed the Chair.

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



The Vice-Chair opened the floor to the public. He recognized the following:

*Testimony neutral to the Bill:*

Mr. Wright Banks, Office of Attorney General of Georgia

The Vice-Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Vice-Chair recognized Sen. Watson (1st) who made a motion that **SB 500 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 49 0881S)**. Sen. Kennedy (18th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

**Committee Recommendation: SB 500 (LC 49 0881S) Do Pass By Substitute.**

NOTE: Sen. Strickland (17th) resumed the Chair.

**HB 1361 (Rep. Leverett, 33rd, LC 36 5144) Civil practice; Attorney General is to be served and heard in defense of all Acts of the General Assembly when challenged in any court action; clarify**

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 recognized Sen. Cowsert (46th) who made a motion that **HB 1361 Do Pass (LC 36 5144)**. Sen. Kennedy (18th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

The Chair indicated that Sen. Kennedy (18th) would be the Senate Sponsor.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 1361 (LC 36 5144) Do Pass.**

**SB 154 (Sen. James, 35th, LC 41 2868) Property Owners' Associations; cap on assessments by property owners' associations for certain lots relative to mortgage costs; provide**

The Chair stated that this bill would receive a hearing only.

The Chair recognized Sen. Donzella James (35th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. James (35th) presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Cowsert (46th) left at 9:48 a.m.

**Committee Recommendation: SB 154 (LC 41 2868) No action was taken.**

**SB 485 (Sen. Dolezal, 27th, LC 28 0422) Statute of Frauds; agreements with a value in excess of \$10,000.00 shall be in writing; provide**

The Chair stated that this bill would receive a hearing only.

The Chair recognized Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Dolezal (27th) presented the bill to the Committee.

**Committee Recommendation: SB 485 (LC 28 0422) No action was taken.**

**SB 249 (Sen. Anderson, 43rd, LC 41 2985) Newton County; new judicial circuit; create; Alcovy Judicial Circuit; composition and terms of court; revise**

The Chair stated that this bill would receive a hearing only.

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

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

*Testimony in favor of the Bill:*

Stephanie Lindsay, Attorney from Newton County  
Gene Wills, Newton County resident

*Testimony in opposition to the Bill:*

Randy McGinley, District Attorney Alcovy Circuit

**NOTE:** Sen. Cowsert (46th) returned at 10:00 a.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Parent (42nd) left at 10:13 a.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Parent (42nd) returned at 10:16 a.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Watson (1st) left at 10:35 a.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Parent (42nd) left at 10:37 a.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Parent (42nd) returned at 10:42 a.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) left at 10:45 a.m.

**Committee Recommendation: SB 249 (LC 41 2985) No action was taken.**

Chairman Strickland (17th) adjourned the meeting at 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Sky Park, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**  
**Monday, February 28, 2022**

The Senate Committee on Judiciary met on Monday, February 28, 2022 at 2:00 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. Bo Hatchett (50th)  
Sen. Harold Jones II (22nd)  
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd)  
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd)  
Sen. Michael “Doc” Rhett (33rd)  
Sen. Ben Watson (1st) (*Arrived Late*)

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

Chairman Strickland (17th) called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Cowsert (46th) arrived late at 2:09 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Watson (1st) arrived late at 2:09 p.m.

**[SB 499](#) (Sen. Tippins, 37th, LC 39 3195) DNA Sampling, Collection, and Analysis; analysis and collection of DNA of individuals convicted of certain misdemeanor offenses; provide**

The Chair stated that SB 499 would receive a hearing only.

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

**NOTE:** Sen. Watson (1st) left at 2:20 p.m.

**Committee Recommendation: SB 499 (LC 39 3195) No action was taken.**

**[SB 227](#) (Sen. Jones, 22nd, LC 41 2976) Eminent Domain; alternative process for a county, municipality, or consolidated government to condemn certain blighted properties; provide**

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

**NOTE:** Sen. Watson (1st) returned at 2:50 p.m.

**Committee Recommendation: SB 227 (LC 41 2976) No action was taken.**

**SB 501 (Sen. Strickland, 17th, LC 49 0822) Sentencing and Imposition of Punishment; resentence a defendant, upon a motion by the prosecuting attorney and upon determining that the interest of justice would not be served by the defendant's continued incarceration, subject to conditions; authorize**

**NOTE:** Sen. Cowsert (46th) assumed the Chair.

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

The Vice-Chair opened the floor to the public. He recognized the following:

*Testimony in Favor of the bill:*

Sherry Boston, District Attorney of Dekalb County

Mazie Lynn Guertin, Georgia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers

**Committee Recommendation: SB 501 (LC 49 0822) No action was taken.**

Vice-Chairman Cowsert (46th) adjourned the meeting at 3:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Sky Park, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**  
**Monday, March 1, 2022**

The Senate Committee on Judiciary met on Tuesday, March 1, 2022 at 4:00 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. Bo Hatchett (50th)  
Sen. Harold Jones II (22nd) (*Arrived Late*)  
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd) (*Arrived Late*)  
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd)  
Sen. Michael “Doc” Rhett (33rd) (*Arrived Late*)  
Sen. Ben Watson (1st)

**NOTE:** Sen. Blake Tillery (19th) was not present.

Chairman Strickland (17th) called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

**SB 441 (Sen. Hatchett, 50th, LC 49 0778) Courts; reestablishment of the Criminal Case Data Exchange Board as an advisory board to the Council of Superior Court Clerks of Georgia; provide**

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

**NOTE:** Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) arrived late at 4:07 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Rhett (33rd) arrived late at 4:09 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Rhett (33rd) left at 4:11 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Jones (22nd) arrived late at 4:16 p.m.

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

*Testimony in favor of the Bill:*

Ms. Helen Sloat from Nelson Mullins, Georgia Justice Project

Mr. Mike Holiman of the Council of Superior Court Clerks

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Watson (1st) who made a motion to amend the bill by inserting “the Council of Superior Court Clerks shall submit the uniform standards adopted by the board pursuant to paragraph (5) of subsection (h) of Code Section 15-6-50.3 to the Council of Superior Court Judges. The chief superior court judge of each judicial circuit shall assist the superior court clerk with the implementation of such uniform standards. A superior court judge may order any

party to provide data needed by the clerk to facilitate transmission of data.”, and after implementation on Line 7, strike to provide for submission of standards for consideration by the Supreme Court of Georgia. Sen. Kennedy (18th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair indicated his preference that the adopted amendment be incorporated into a perfected committee substitute.

The Chair recognized Sen. Cowser (46th) who made a motion that **SB 441 Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

**Committee Recommendation: SB 441 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 49 0921S)**

**SB 521** (Sen. Mullis, 53rd, LC 47 1449) **Municipal Corporations; transition of services and facilities from an existing municipality to a newly incorporated municipality; provide**

The Chair stated that SB 521 would receive a hearing only.

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

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

*Testimony in opposition to the Bill:*

Mr. Robert Ashe, Attorney for the City of Atlanta

Mr. Rusi Patel of the Georgia Municipal Association

Ms. Linda Klein, Co-Chair of the Committee for United Atlanta

Ms. Kenyatta Mitchell from the City of Atlanta

**NOTE:** Sen. Rhett (33rd) returned at 4:21 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Jones (22nd) left at 4:43 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Watson (1st) left at 4:57 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Jones (22nd) returned at 4:58 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Watson (1st) returned at 5:02 p.m.

**Committee Recommendation: SB 521 (LC 47 1449) No action was taken.**

**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 to the public. He recognized the following:

*Testimony in favor of the Bill:*

Ms. Mazie Lynn Guertin of Georgia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers

The Chair recognized Sen. Cowsert (46th) who made a motion that **SB 197 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 28 0481S)**. Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

**Committee Recommendation: SB 197 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 28 0481S)**

**SB 381** (Sen. Robertson, 29th, LC 49 0690) **Pimping and Pandering; penalty provisions; increase**

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 to the public. He recognized the following:

*Testimony in favor of the Bill:*

Mr. Taylor Hawkins of Frontline Policy Action

Ms. Camila Zulfgari of Street Grace

*Testimony in opposition to the Bill:*

Ms. Mazie Lynn Guertin, Georgia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Hatchett (50th) who made a motion that **SB 381 Do Pass (LC 49 0690)**. Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of (6-2)

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. Jones (22nd) and Sen. Cowsert (46th) voted against the motion.

**Committee Recommendation: SB 381 Do Pass (LC 49 0690)**

Chairman Strickland (17th) adjourned the meeting at 5:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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



/s/ Sky Park, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**  
**Tuesday, March 8, 2022**

The Senate Committee on Judiciary met on Tuesday, March 8, 2022 at 4:00 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. John Kennedy (18th), Secretary (*Arrived Late*)  
Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th)  
Sen. Harold Jones II (22nd)  
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd) (*Left Early*)  
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd)  
Sen. Michael “Doc” Rhett (33rd) (*Arrived Late*)  
Sen. Blake Tillery (19th) (*Arrived Late*)  
Sen. Ben Watson (1st)

**NOTE:** Sen. Cowsert (46th) was absent.

Chairman Strickland (17th) called the meeting to order at 4:06 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Rhett (33rd) arrived at 4:10 p.m.

**[SB 499](#) (Sen. Tippins, 37th LC 39 3195) DNA Sampling, Collection, and Analysis; analysis and collection of DNA of individuals convicted of certain misdemeanor offenses; provide**

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

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

*Testimony in favor of the bill:*

Cleveland Miles, GBI Crime Lab Director  
Stephanie Fowler, GBI CODIS Admin

*Testimony in opposition to the bill:*

Mazie Lynn Guertin, Georgia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers

The chair recognized Sen. Watson (1st) who made a motion that **SB 499 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 49 0936S)**. Sen. Hatchett (50th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of (4-3).

Sen. Hatchett (50th), Sen. Watson (1st), and Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) voted in favor of the motion. Sen. Strickland (17th) broke the tie by casting a vote in favor of the motion.

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

**Committee Recommendation: SB 499 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 49 0936S)**

**NOTE:** Sen. Rhett (33rd) left at 4:11 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Rhett (33rd) returned at 4:19 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Hatchett (50th) left at 4:22 p.m.

**SB 354 (Sen. Rhett, 33rd, LC 47 1140) Annexation; notice to residential tenants; provide**

The Chair recognized Sen. Michael ‘Doc’ Rhett (33rd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Rhett (33rd) presented the bill to the Committee.

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

**NOTE:** The Committee stood at ease at 4:23 p.m.

**NOTE:** The Committee came back to order at 4:29p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Kennedy (18th) arrived at 4:29 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Hatchett (50th) returned at 4:29 p.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Jones (22nd) who made a motion that **SB 354 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 47 1705S)**. Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (5-0)

**Committee Recommendation: SB 354 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 47 1705S).**

**SB 543 (Sen. Halpern 39th, LC 49 0856) Wrongful Death; a parent who is determined to be responsible for the homicide of his or her child shall have no right of recovery against the value of the child's life; provide**

The Chair recognized Sen. Sonya Halpern (39th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Halpern (39th) presented the bill to the Committee.

**NOTE:** Sen. Tillery (19th) arrived late at 4:33p.m.

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

*Testimony in favor of the bill:*

James Valbrun, The Valbrun Law Firm

The Chair recognized Sen. Watson (1st) who made a motion that **SB 543 Do Pass (LC 49 0856)**. Sen. Rhett (33rd) seconded that motion. The motion passed unanimously (6-0).

**Committee Recommendation: SB 543 Do Pass (LC 49 0856)**

**SB 171 (Sen. Robertson 29th, LC 49 0903S) "Safe Communities Act of 2021"; enact**

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 to the public. He recognized the following:

*Testimony in opposition to the bill:*

Isabel Otero, SPLC Action Fund

Kaitlyn Barnes, Southern Center for Human Rights

Mazie Lynn Guertin, Georgia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers

Kevin Joachin, GLAHR

Oscar Trevino, GLAHR

Geovani Serrano, GLAHR

Kenyatta Mitchell, City of Atlanta

Larry Ramsey, ACCG

Kareem El-Hosseiny, CAIR Georgia

Cindy Battles, GA Coalition for the Peoples Agenda

Chris Bruce, ACLU GA

**NOTE:** Sen. Tillery (19th) left at 4:58 p.m.

The Chair open the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) who made a motion to add the word “imminent” between the words ‘an’ and ‘attack’ on line 102 and striking “property or” on line 103. Sen. Watson (1st) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

The Chair recognized Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) who made a motion to replace “the” with “a” and strike “or property of another” on line 74. Sen. Watson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

The Chair recognized Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) who made a motion to strike lines 70-72 after “assembly of two or more persons” and replaced with “who convey any threat that is severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive, and specifically directed to inciting or producing imminent lawless action”. Sen. Parent (42nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (7-0)

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

The Chair recognized Sen. Hatchett (50th) who made a motion that **SB 171 Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Kennedy (18th) seconded that motion. The motion passed by a vote of (4-3).

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

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

**Committee Recommendation: SB 171 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 49 0938S)**

**SB 552 (Sen. Brass, 28th, LC 44 1990) Superior Courts; eighth judge of the superior courts of the Coweta Judicial Circuit; provide**

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

The Chair recognized Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) who made a motion that **SB 552 Do Pass (LC 44 1990)**. Sen. Hatchett (50th) seconded that motion. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

**Committee Recommendation: SB 552 Do Pass (LC 44 1990)**

**SB 565 (Sen. Strickland, 17th, LC 49 0839) Sentence and Punishment; any time after conviction; defendant convicted of an offense and sentenced as a direct result of being a victim of trafficking for labor or sexual servitude may petition the sentencing court to grant the relief of vacatur; provide**

**NOTE:** Sen. Kennedy (18th) assumed the Chair and 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 to the public. He recognized the following:

*Testimony in favor of the bill:*

Beatrice Shakal, Frontline Policy Action

The Chair recognized Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) who made a motion that **SB 565 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 49 0935S)**. Sen. Rhett (33rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

**NOTE:** Sen. Hatchett (50th) left at 5:37 p.m.

**Committee Recommendation: SB 565 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 49 0935S)**

**SB 576 (Sen. Strickland, 17th, LC 49 0869) Grandparents or Family Members Visitation Rights; provisions regarding visitation actions brought by certain grandparents of minor children; revise**

Sen. Kennedy (18th) recognized Sen. Strickland (17th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Strickland (17th) presented the bill to the Committee.

Sen. Kennedy (18th) recognized Sen. Watson (1st) who made a motion that **SB 576 Do Pass (LC 49 0869)**. Sen. Parent (42nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (6-0).

**Committee Recommendation: SB 576 Do Pass (LC 49 0869)**

**SB 577** (Sen. Strickland, 17th, LC 39 3248) **Traffic Offenses; aggressive driving to the underlying offenses for the offense of homicide by vehicle; add**

Sen. Kennedy (18th) 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 to the public. He recognized the following:

*Testimony in favor of the bill:*

Randy McGinley, District Attorney Alcovy Circuit

**NOTE:** Sen. Tillery (19th) returned to the meeting at 5:43 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Tillery (19th) left the meeting at 5:46 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Tillery (19th) returned to the meeting at 5:48 p.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) who made a motion that **SB 577 Do Pass (LC 39 3248)**. Sen. Parent (42nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

**Committee Recommendation: SB 577 Do Pass (LC 39 3248)**

**SB 227** (Sen. Jones, 22nd, LC 41 2976) **Eminent Domain; alternative process for a county, municipality, or consolidated government to condemn certain blighted properties; provide**

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

The Chair recognized Sen. Rhett (33rd) who made a motion that **SB 227 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 49 0930S)**. Sen. Parent (42nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (7-0)

**Committee Recommendation: SB 227 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 49 0930S)**

**SB 599** (Sen. Hickman, 4th, LC 44 2021) **Reckless Conduct; offense of reckless conduct by discharging a firearm; provide**

The Chair recognized Sen. Billy Hickman (4th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Hickman (4th) presented the bill to the Committee.

*Testimony in favor of the Bill:*

Captain Jared Akins, Statesboro Police Department

*Testimony in opposition to the Bill:*

Mazie Lynn Geurtin, Georgia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers

**NOTE:** Sen. Hatchett (50th) returned at 6:11 p.m.

The chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Watson (1st) who makes a motion to strike lines 21-24 as well as strike in lines 3 and 4, “to prohibit merger of offenses; to prohibit probation and other alternatives to incarceration”. Sen. Parent (42nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

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

The Chair recognized Sen. Tillery (19th) who made a motion that **SB 599 Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Kennedy (18th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of (6-2).

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

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

**Committee Recommendation: SB 599 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 49 0939S)**

**NOTE:** Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) left the meeting at 6:12 p.m.

**SB 504 (Sen. Robertson, 29th, LC 28 0460) Bonds and Recognizances; the term "bail restricted offense"; redefine**

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

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

*Testimony in opposition of the Bill:*

Kaitlyn Barnes, Southern Center for Human Rights

Maizie Lynn Guertin, Georgia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers

The Chair recognized Sen. Kennedy (18th) who made a motion that **SB 504 Do Pass (LC 29 0460)**. Sen. Hatchett (50th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of (4-3)

Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Hatchett (50th), Sen. Tillery (19th), and Sen. Watson (1st) voted in favor of the motion.

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

**Committee Recommendation: SB 504 Do Pass (LC 28 0460)**

**SB 551 (Sen. Tillery, 19th, LC 43 2295) Superior Courts; penalty for the failure of clerks of the superior court to timely transmit certain required information to the Georgia Crime Information Center; provide**

The Chair recognized Sen. Tillery (19th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Tillery (19th) presented the bill to the Committee.

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

*Testimony in opposition to the Bill:*

Mike Holiman, Superior Court Clerks

**Committee Recommendation: SB 551 (LC 43 2295) No action was taken**

Chairman Strickland (17th) adjourned the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Sky Park, Recording Secretary



**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**  
**Monday, March 14, 2022**

The Senate Committee on Judiciary met on Monday, March 14, 2022 at 2:00 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. Bo Hatchett (50th)  
Sen. Harold Jones II (22nd) (*Arrived Late*)  
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd) (*Left Early*)  
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd)  
Sen. Michael “Doc” Rhett (33rd)

**NOTE:** Sen. Tillery (19th) and Sen. Watson (1st) were absent.

Chairman Strickland (17th) called the meeting to order at 2:22 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Jones (22nd) arrived at 2:23 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Kennedy (18th) arrived at 2:28 p.m.

**[HB 56](#) (Rep. Cantrell, 22nd, LC 41 2805S) Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit; superior court; provide additional judge**

The Chair recognized Rep. Wes Cantrell (22nd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Cantrell (22nd) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair recognized Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) who made a motion that **HB 56 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 44 1993S)**. Sen. Hatchett (50th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (6-0).

The Chair indicated that Sen. Bruce Thompson (14th) would be the Senate Sponsor of the bill.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 56 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 44 1993S)**

**[HB 1346](#) (Rep. Ballinger, 23rd, LC 44 1980S) Courts; clerks of superior courts; provide for construction**

The Chair recognized Rep. Mandi Ballinger (23rd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Ballinger (23rd) presented the bill to the Committee.

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

The Chair recognized Sen. Hatchett (50th) who made a motion that **HB 1346 Do Pass (LC 44 1980S)**. Sen. Parent (42nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of (6-0).

The Chair indicated that Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) would be the Senate Sponsor.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 1346 Do Pass (LC 44 1980S)**

**HB 1274 (Rep. Carson, 46th, LC 50 0323) State government; antisemitism; provide definition**

The Chair stated that this bill would receive a hearing only.

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

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

*Testimony in favor of the bill:*

Rep. Mike Wilensky (79th)

*Testimony in opposition to the bill:*

Ilise Cohen, Citizen

Kareem Elhosseiny, CAIR

Gary Flack, Citizen

David Goldman, ACLU GA

**NOTE:** Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) left early at 3:13 p.m.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 1274 (LC 50 0323) No action was taken**

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

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Sky Park, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**  
**Monday, March 21, 2022**

The Senate Committee on Judiciary met on Monday, March 21, 2022 at 2:00 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. Bo Hatchett (50th)  
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd)  
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd)  
Sen. Michael “Doc” Rhett (33rd) (*Arrived Late*)(*Left Early*)  
Sen. Ben Watson (1st)

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

Chairman Strickland (17th) called the meeting to order at 2:09 p.m.

**[HB 1134](#) (Rep. Efstration, 104th, LC 48 0522) Crimes and offenses; prosecute offenses involving criminal gang activity; provide for concurrent authority**

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 recognized Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) who made a motion that **HB 1134 Do Pass (LC 48 0522)**. Sen. Hatchett (50th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of (4-1)

Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Hatchett (50th), Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd), and Sen. Watson (1st) voted for the motion.

Sen. Parent (42nd) voted against the motion.

The Chair indicated that Sen. Kennedy (18th) would be the Senate Sponsor.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 1134 Do Pass (LC 48 0522)**

**[HB 1428](#) (Rep. Efstration, 104th, LC 33 8851) Code Revision Commission; revise, modernize, correct errors or omissions**

The Chair recognized Rep. Efstration (104th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Efstration (104th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair recognized Sen. Watson (1st) who made a motion that **HB 1428 Do Pass (LC 33 8851)**. Sen. Cowsert (46th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (5-0)

The Chair indicated that Sen. Strickland (17th) would be the Senate Sponsor.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 1428 Do Pass (LC 33 8851)**

**HB 1088 (Rep. Gunter, 8th, LC 44 1956S) Property; nonjudicial foreclosure of time-share estates; authorize**

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

**NOTE:** Sen. Rhett (33rd) arrived late at 2:27 p.m.

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

*Testimony in favor of the bill:*

Vernon Lee

The Chair recognized Sen. Watson (1st) who made a motion that **HB 1088 Do Pass (LC 44 1956S)**. Sen. Hatchett (50th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (6-0)

The Chair indicated that Sen. Hatchett (50th) would be the Senate Sponsor.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 1088 Do Pass (LC 44 1956S)**

**HB 1188 (Rep. Lott, 122nd, LC 48 0518-EC) Criminal procedure; each act of child molestation charged as a separate offense; provide**

The Chair recognized Rep. Jodi Lott (122nd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Lott (122nd) presented the bill to the Committee.

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

*Testimony in favor of the bill:*

Chris Arnt, DA – Lookout Mountain JC

Brian Johnston, GBI

*Testimony in opposition of the bill:*

Jill Travis, Georgia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers

The Chair recognized Sen. Hatchett (50th) who made a motion that **HB 1188 Do Pass (LC 48 0518-EC)**. Sen. Cowsert (46th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of (5-0).

The Chair indicated that Sen. Hatchett (50th) would be the Senate Sponsor.

NOTE: Sen. Rhett (33rd) left early at 2:38 p.m.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 1188 Do Pass (LC 48 0518-EC)**

**HB 620 (Rep. Leverett, 33rd, LC 41 3053S) 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 to the public. He recognized the following:

*Testimony in favor of the bill:*

Bob Bray, Council of State Court Judges

The Chair recognized Sen. Watson (1st) who made a motion that **HB 620 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 41 3213S)**. The Chair recognized Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) who seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of (4-1).

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

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

The Chair indicated that Sen. Hatchett (50th) would be the Senate Sponsor of the bill.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 620 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 41 3213S)**

Chairman Strickland (17th) adjourned the meeting at 2:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Sky Park, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**  
**Tuesday, March 22, 2022**

The Senate Committee on Judiciary met on Tuesday, March 22, 2022 at 4:00 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. Bo Hatchett (50th)  
Sen. Harold Jones II (22nd)  
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd)  
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd)  
Sen. Michael “Doc” Rhett (33rd)  
Sen. Ben Watson (1st)

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

Chairman Strickland (17th) called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m.

**[HB 1388](#) (Rep. Burchett, 176th, LC 44 2017S) Civil practice; alternative procedure for designation of official legal organ; provide**

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

The Chair recognized Sen. Watson (1st) who made a motion that **HB 1388 Do Pass (LC 44 2017S)**. Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (6-0).

The Chair indicated that Sen. Strickland (17th) would be the Senate sponsor.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 1388 Do Pass (LC 44 2017S)**

**[HB 1183](#) (Rep. Gunter 8th, LC 48 0537S) Criminal procedure; increase time allotted to try a criminal case in judicial emergencies; provide**

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

**NOTE:** Sen. Cowsert (46th) arrived late at 4:21 p.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Watson (1st) who made a motion that **HB 1183 Do Pass (LC 48 0537S)**. Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair indicated that Sen. Hatchett (50th) would be the Senate sponsor.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 1183 Do pass (LC 48 0537S)**

**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 recognized Sen. Parent (42nd) who made a motion that **HB 464 Do Pass (41 2891)**. Sen. Jones (22nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

The Chair indicated that Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd) would be the Senate Sponsor.

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

**HB 624 (Rep. Taylor, 173rd, LC 44 1848S) South Georgia Judicial Circuit; additional judge of the superior court; provide**

The Chair recognized Rep. Darlene Taylor (173rd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Taylor (173rd) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair recognized Sen. Hatchett (50th) who made a motion that **HB 624 Do Pass (LC 44 1848S)**. Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair indicated that Sen. Kennedy (18th) would be the Senate Sponsor.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 624 Do Pass (LC 44 1848S)**

**HB 895 (Rep. Crowe, 110th, LC 49 0858S) Criminal procedure; restrictions of the disclosure of personal information of nonsworn employees; provisions**

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

The Chair recognized Sen. Jones (22nd) who made a motion that **HB 895 Do Pass (LC 49 0858S)**. Sen. Cowsert (46th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

The Chair indicated that Sen. John Albers (56th) would be the Senate sponsor.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 895 Do Pass (LC 49 0858S)**

**HB 1390 (Rep. Anulewicz, 42nd, LC 44 2079ERS) Labor and industrial relations; right of action against a county or city employer for retaliation; provide**

The Chair recognized Rep. Teri Anulewicz (42nd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Anulewicz (42nd) presented the bill to the Committee.

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

*Testimony in favor of the Bill:*

Ms. Elaine Hudson, YWCA Greater Atlanta

Ms. Alison Glass, 9 to 5 Georgia, National Association for Working Women

Ms. Charlotte Davis, Georgia Municipal Association

Mr. Todd Edwards, Association of County Commissioners of Georgia

The Chair recognized Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) who made a motion that **HB 1390 Do Pass (LC 44 2079ERS)**. Sen. Parent (42nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

The Chair indicated that Sen. Parent (42nd) would be the Senate Sponsor.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 1390 Do Pass (LC 44 2079ERS)**

**HB 1461 (Rep. Anderson, 10th, LC 47 1715S) Local government; annexation of territory; revise provisions relating to dispute resolution**

The Chair recognized Rep. Victor Anderson (10th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Anderson (10th) presented the bill to the Committee.

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

*Testimony in favor of the Bill:*

Mr. Van Stevens, Hall County Attorney

Mr. Todd Edwards, Association of County Commissioners of Georgia

Mr. Tom Gehl, Georgia Municipal Association

The Chair recognized Sen. Parent (42nd) who made a motion that **HB 1461 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 49 0969S)**. Sen. Rhett (33rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

The Chair indicated that Sen. Hatchett (50th) would be the Senate sponsor.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 1461 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 49 0969S)**

Chairman Strickland (17th) adjourned the meeting at 4:49 p.m.



Respectfully submitted,

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

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/s/ Sky Park, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**  
**Thursday, March 24, 2022**

The Senate Committee on Judiciary met on Thursday, March 24, 2022 at 2:00 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. Bo Hatchett (50th) (*Arrived Late*)  
Sen. Harold Jones II (22nd) (*Arrived Late*)  
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd)  
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd)  
Sen. Michael “Doc” Rhett (33rd) (*Arrived Late*)  
Sen. Blake Tillery (19th) (*Arrived Late*) (*Left Early*)  
Sen. Ben Watson (1st)

Chairman Strickland (17th) called the meeting to order at 2:11 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Tillery (19th) arrived late at 2:14 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Rhett (33rd) arrived late at 2:17 p.m.

**HB 478 (Rep. Rich, 97th, LC 44 1884S) Evidence; expert testimony in criminal cases; change rules**

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 to the public. He recognized the following:

*Testimony in favor of the Bill:*

Ms. Jill Travis, Georgia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers

Mr. Robert Smith, Prosecuting Attorneys’ Council

Mr. Mark Loudon-Brown, Southern Center for Human Rights/GACDL

The Chair recognized Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) who made a motion that **HB 478 Do Pass (LC 44 1884S)**. Sen. Cowsert (46th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

The Chair indicated that Sen. Strickland (17th) would be the Senate sponsor.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 478 Do Pass (LC 44 1884S)**

**HB 1234 (Rep. Ballinger, 23rd, LC 48 0531) Juvenile proceedings; right to an attorney for any child receiving extended care services from Department of Family and Children Services; provide**

The Chair recognized Rep. Mandi Ballinger (23rd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Ballinger (23rd) presented the bill to the Committee.

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

*Testimony in favor of the Bill:*

Mr. Matt Wosotowsky, Legislative Director of Department of Human Services

Ms. Carson Cook, Barton Child Law: Policy Center

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Parent (42nd) who made a motion that **HB 1234 Do Pass (LC 48 0531)**. Sen. Watson (1st) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

The Chair indicated that Sen. Hatchett (50th) would be the Senate sponsor.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 1234 Do Pass (LC 48 0531)**

**HB 1358 (Rep. Ballinger, 23rd, LC 39 3385S) Chairman John Meadows Act; enact**

The Chair recognized Rep. Ballinger (23rd) and Sen. Jason Anavitarte (31st) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Ballinger (23rd) and Sen. Anavitarte (31st) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair recognized Sen. Tillery (19th) who made a motion that **HB 1358 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 49 0980S)**. Sen. Kennedy (18th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of (5-2).

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

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

The Chair indicated that Sen. Anavitarte (31st) would be the Senate sponsor.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 1358 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 49 0980S)**

**HB 1275 (Rep. Rich, 97th, LC 44 1961S) Local government; appointment and removal of municipal court judges; revise provisions**

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

The Chair recognized Sen. Watson (1st) who made a motion that **HB 1275 Do Pass (LC 44 1961S)**. Sen. Kennedy (18th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

The Chair indicated that Sen. Kennedy (18th) would be the Senate sponsor.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 1275 (LC 44 1961S) Do Pass.**

**HB 1348** (Rep. Rich, 97th, LC 54 0055) Georgia Smoke-free Air Act; revise

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

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

*Testimony in favor of the Bill:*

Ms. Polly McKinney, Advocacy Director Voices for Georgia's Children  
Ms. Elizabeth Newcomb, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta

The Chair recognized Sen. Parent (42nd) who made a motion that **HB 1348 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 54 0088S)**. Sen. Watson (1st) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

The Chair indicated that Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd) would be the Senate sponsor.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 1348 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 54 0088S)**

**HB 752** (Rep. Cooper, 43rd, LC 33 8933S) Psychiatric Advance Directive Act; enact

The Chair recognized Rep. Sharon Cooper (43rd) for the purpose of presenting the bill.  
Rep. Cooper (43rd) presented the bill to the Committee.

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

*Testimony in favor of the Bill:*

Mr. Nick Djuric, State Bar of Georgia Fiduciary Section

The Chair recognized Sen. Watson (1st) who made a motion that **HB 752 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 33 9134S)**. Sen. Parent (42nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

The Chair indicated that Sen. Kennedy (18th) would be the Senate sponsor.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 752 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 33 9134S)**

**HB 1092 (Rep. Cooper, 43rd, LC 33 8948) Georgia Women's CARE (Child Care Alternatives, Resources, and Education) Act, enact**

The Chair recognized Rep. Cooper (43rd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Cooper (43rd) presented the bill to the Committee.

**NOTE:** Sen. Jones (22nd) arrived late at 3:20 p.m.

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

*Testimony in opposition to the Bill:*

Ms. Lalaine Briones, Prosecuting Attorneys' Council

Ms. Mazie Lynn Guertin, Georgia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers

*Testimony in favor of the Bill:*

Pamela Winn, RestoreHER

**NOTE:** Sen. Watson (1st) left at 3:28 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Tillery (19th) left at 3:30 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Watson (1st) returned at 3:34 p.m.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 1092 (LC 33 8948) No action was taken.**

**HB 1216 (Rep. McDonald, 26th, LC 39 3269S) Traffic offenses; enhanced penalties for violations of fleeing or attempting to elude a police officer; provide**

The Chair recognized Rep. Lauren McDonald (26th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. McDonald (26th) presented the bill to the Committee.

**NOTE:** Sen. Tillery (19th) returned at 3:46 p.m.

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

*Testimony in favor of the Bill:*

Ms. Lalaine Briones, Prosecuting Attorneys' Council

Sgt. Vince Mooney, State Patrol

*Testimony in opposition to the Bill:*

Ms. Jill Travis, Georgia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Tillery (19th) who made a motion to add in line 20 “an individual who immediately reduces his or her vehicle’s speed to below the posted speed limit, turns on the vehicle’s flashers, and drives to a lighted area before stopping shall not be deemed to flee or attempt to elude.” Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

The Chair indicated his preference that the adopted amendment be incorporated into a perfected committee substitute.

The Chair recognized Sen. Kennedy (18th) who made a motion that **HB 1216 Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of (6-3).

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

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

The Chair indicated that Sen. Hatchett (50th) would be the Senate sponsor.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 1216 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 49 0990S)**

**HB 554 (Rep. Gunter, 8th, LC 41 3023S) Property; revise when an action may operate as a lis pendens**

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

**NOTE:** Sen. Cowsert left at 4:03 p.m.

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

*Testimony in favor of the Bill:*

Mr. Edward Lindsey, Dentons

Mr. Ryan Milsap

*Testimony in opposition to the Bill:*

Bret Channess, Real Estate Attorney

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Hatchett (50th) who made a motion to amend the bill on line 67 after ‘with’ to insert “a claim of legal or equitable” and strike the word “an” and also on line 67 to strike “by filing of” and inserting “to intervene and file.” Sen. Tillery (19th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

The Chair recognized Sen. Tillery (19th) who made a motion to amend the bill by inserting, “unless otherwise extended by the court” on line 70. Sen. Kennedy (18th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

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

The Chair recognized Sen. Kennedy (18th) who made a motion that **HB 554 Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Hatchett (50th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

The Chair indicated that Sen. Hatchett (50th) would be the Senate sponsor.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 554 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 49 0988S)**

**NOTE:** The Committee stood at ease at 4:27 p.m.

**NOTE:** The Committee returned to order at 4:32 p.m.

**HB 1 (Rep. Bonner, 72nd, LC 50 0337S) Forming Open and Robust University Minds (FORUM) Act; enact**

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 to the public. He recognized the following:

**NOTE:** Sen. Tillery (19th) left early 4:52 p.m.

*Testimony in favor of the Bill:*

Mike Griffin, Georgia Baptist Mission Board  
Cole Muzio, Frontline Policy Action  
Tony West, Americans for Prosperity

*Testimony neutral on the Bill:*

Vasu Abhu Haramin, ACLU

*Testimony in opposition to the Bill:*

Kareem El-Hosseiny, CAIR-GA

The Chair recognized Sen. Hatchett (50th) who made a motion that **HB 1 Do Pass (LC 50 0337S)**. Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of (5-3).

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

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

The Chair indicated that Sen. Bruce Thompson (14th) would be the Senate sponsor.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 1 Do Pass (LC 50 0337S)**

**HB 1405 (Rep. Roberts, 52nd, LC 47 1698) The Zoning Procedures Law; revise**

The Chair recognized Rep. Shea Roberts, (52nd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Roberts (52nd) presented the bill to the Committee.

**NOTE:** Sen. Watson (1st) left at 5:06 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Watson (1st) returned at 5:07 p.m.

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

*Testimony in favor of the Bill:*

Ms. Emily Hirst, Georgia Municipal Association

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Hatchett (50th) who made a motion to amend the bill on line 180 by striking “may” to “shall”. Sen. Parent (42nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

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

The Chair recognized Sen. Parent (42nd) who made a motion that **HB 1405 Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Hatchett (50th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

The Chair indicated that Sen. Parent (42nd) would be the Senate sponsor.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 1405 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 49 0989S)**

**HB 1452 (Rep. Gaines, 117th, LC 28 0448) Domestic relations; dating violence protective orders; revise a definition**

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 to the public. He recognized the following:

*Testimony in favor of the Bill:*

Rebecca Grist, Solicitor in Macon



The Chair recognized Sen. Hatchett (50th) who made a motion that **HB 1452 Do Pass (LC 28 0448)**. Sen. Kennedy (18th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

The Chair indicated that Sen. Kennedy (18th) would be the Senate sponsor.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 1452 Do Pass (LC 28 0448)**

Chairman Strickland (17th) adjourned the meeting at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Sky Park, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**  
**Monday, March 28, 2022**

The Senate Committee on Judiciary met on Monday, March 28, 2022 at 2:00 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. Bo Hatchett (50th)  
Sen. Harold Jones II (22nd) (*Arrived Late*)  
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd)  
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd)  
Sen. Michael “Doc” Rhett (33rd) (*Arrived Late*)  
Sen. Ben Watson (1st)  
Sen. Blake Tillery (19th) (*Arrived Late*)(*Left Early*)

Chairman Strickland (17th) called the meeting to order at 2:07 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Tillery (19th) arrived late at 2:11 p.m.

**[HB 1528](#) (Rep. Momtahan, 17th, LC 39 3403S) Commerce and trade; illegal for certain persons to purchase, possess, obtain, or sell used, detached catalytic converters; provide**

The Chair recognized Rep. John Corbett (174th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Corbett (174th) presented the bill to the Committee.

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

*Testimony in favor of the bill:*  
Derick Corbett, Pull-A-Part

The Chair recognized Sen. Hatchett (50th) who made a motion that **HB 1528 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 39 3437S)**. Sen. Kennedy (18th) seconded the motion. The motion passed (6-0).

The Chair indicated that Sen. Hatchett (50th) would be the Senate sponsor of the bill.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 1528 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 39 3437S)**

**[HB 961](#) (Rep. Efstration, 104th, LC 44 1842) Torts; authorize apportionment of damages in single-defendant lawsuits; provide for evidence of fault of nonparties**

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 recognized Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) who made a motion that **HB 961 Do Pass (LC 44 1842)**. Sen. Kennedy (18th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (6-0).

The Chair indicated that Sen. Kennedy (18th) would be the Senate sponsor of the bill.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 961 Do Pass (LC 44 1842)**

**HB 1377 (Rep. Burchett, 176th, LC 44 2015S) Income tax; equitable relief regarding failure of employers to comply with revenue provisions regarding employees; authorize private causes of action**

**NOTE:** Sen. Jones (22nd) arrived late at 2:24 p.m.

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

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

*Testimony in favor of the bill:*

Brett Hulme, Southeastern Carpenters Regional Council

The Chair recognized Sen. Tillery (19th) who made a motion to replace the word “title” with “chapter” on line 16. Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (7-0)

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

The Chair recognized Sen. Tillery (19th) who made a motion that **HB 1377 Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Kennedy (18th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

The Chair indicated that Sen. Kennedy (18th) would be the Senate sponsor of the bill.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 1377 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 49 1003S)**

**HB 1068 (Rep. Leverett, 33rd, LC 51 0177S) State government; service of process for state tort claims; revise provisions**

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

**NOTE:** Sen. Rhett (33rd) arrived late at 2:36 p.m.

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

The Chair recognized Sen. Tillery (19th) who made a motion that **HB 1068 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 51 0198S)**. Sen. Parent (42nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

The Chair indicated that Sen. Cowsert (46th) would be the Senate Sponsor.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 1068 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 51 0198S)**

**HB 689 (Rep. Gaines, 117th, LC 41 3032) Georgia Crime Information Center; persons who are victims of an offense of trafficking may petition the clerk of court to have sealed certain criminal history record information; provide**

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 to the public. He recognized the following:

*Testimony in favor of the bill:*

Mike Ogilvie, Lazy Dog

Megan Andrews, DPH

Gaylon Baxtor and Nathan Humphrey, NFIB

Rep. Beth Moore (95th)

The Chair recognized Sen. Parent (42nd) who made a motion that **HB 689 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 41 3032)**. Sen. Watson (1st) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

The Chair indicated that Sen. Cowsert (46th) would be the Senate sponsor of the bill.

**NOTE:** Sen. Cowsert (46th) arrived late at 2:40 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Parent (42nd) left at 2:50 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Parent (42nd) returned at 2:51 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Tillery (19th) left early at 2:54 p.m.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 689 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 44 2097S)**

Chairman Strickland (17th) adjourned the meeting at 3:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Sky Park, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**  
**Tuesday, March 29, 2022**

The Senate Committee on Judiciary met on Tuesday, March 29, 2022 at 4:00 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. Bo Hatchett (50th) (*Arrived Late*)  
Sen. Harold Jones II (22nd) (*Arrived Late*)  
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd)  
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd)  
Sen. Michael “Doc” Rhett (33rd)  
Sen. Ben Watson (1st) (*Left Early*)

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

Chairman Strickland (17th) called the meeting to order at 4:12 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Jones (22nd) arrived late at 4:14 p.m.

**[HB 916](#) (Rep. Leverett, 33rd, LC 49 0852S) Superior and State Court Appellate Practice Act; enact**

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 to the public. He recognized the following:

*Testimony in favor of the bill:*  
Judge Chris McFadden, Court of Appeals  
Darron Enns, Judicial Council  
Judge Gary Jackson, Atlanta Municipal Court

The Chair recognized Sen. Cowsert (46th) who made a motion that **HB 916 Do Pass (LC 49 0852S)**. Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

The Chair indicated that Sen. Kennedy (18th) would be the Senate sponsor of the bill.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 916 Do Pass (LC 49 0852S)**

**[HB 371](#) (Rep. Gunter, 8th, LC 28 0266) Evidence; certain proceedings may be conducted via 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.

**NOTE:** Sen. Hatchett (50th) arrived late at 4:27 p.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Hatchett (50th) who made a motion that **HB 371 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 49 1002)**. Sen. Kennedy (18th) seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously (8-0).

The Chair indicated that Sen. Strickland (17th) would be the Senate Sponsor.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 371 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 49 1002S)**

**HB 272 (Rep. Ballinger, 23rd, 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 (23rd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Ballinger (23rd) presented the bill to the Committee.

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

*Testimony in favor of the bill:*

Carole Maddox, GA Interfaith Public Policy Center

Brian Nunez, SPLC Action Fund

Polly McKinney, Voices for Georgia's Children

Jill Travis, Georgia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers

The Chair recognized Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) who made a motion that **HB 272 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 49 1007S)**. Sen. Parent (42nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

The Chair indicated that Sen. Parent (42nd) would be the Senate sponsor of the bill.

**NOTE:** Sen. Jones (22nd) left at 4:45 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Jones (22nd) returned at 4:46 p.m.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 272 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 49 1007S)**

**HB 194 (Rep. Sainz, 180th, LC 28 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 to the public. He recognized the following:

*Testimony in favor of the bill:*

Robert Smith, PAC

*Testimony in opposition to the bill:*

Jill Travis, Georgia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers

**NOTE:** Sen. Hatchett (50th) left at 5:02 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Jones (22nd) left at 5:02 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Watson (1st) left early at 5:05 p.m.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 194 (LC 48 0396) No action was taken**

**HB 974 (Rep. Gullet, 19th, LC 44 1975S) Property; deeds; require electronic filing**

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 to the public. He recognized the following:

*Testimony in favor of the bill:*

Amy Huskins, Duane Morris

The Chair recognized Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) who made a motion that **HB 974 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 44 2106S)**. Sen. Parent (42nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of (4-1).

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

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

The Chair indicated that Sen. Robertson (29th) would be the Senate sponsor of the bill.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 974 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 44 2106S)**

**HB 1092 (Rep. Cooper, 43rd, LC 33 8948) Georgia Women's CARE (Child Care Alternatives, Resources, and Education) Act, enact**

The Chair recognized Rep. Sharon Cooper (43rd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Cooper (43rd) presented the bill to the Committee.



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

*Testimony in favor of the bill:*

Terry Norris, Georgia Sheriffs Association

Mazie Lynn Guertin, Georgia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers

Robert Smith, PAC

**NOTE:** Sen. Cowsert (46th) left at 5:22 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Jones (22nd) returned at 5:27 p.m.

**NOTE:** The Committee stood at ease at 5:25 p.m.

**NOTE:** The Committee returned to order at 5:29 p.m.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) who made a motion to amend the bill, by changing reporting from “the Department of Community Affairs” to “the Georgia Sheriff’s Association” Sen. Rhett (33rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

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

The Chair recognized Sen. Rhett (33rd) who made a motion that **HB 1092 Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) seconded the motion.

The Chair indicated that Sen. Kennedy (18th) would be the Senate sponsor of the bill.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 1092 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 49 1012S)**

**HB 1274** (Rep. Carson, 46th, LC 50 0323) State government; antisemitism; provide definition

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. Hatchett (50th) returned at 5:35 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Cowsert (46th) returned at 5:40 p.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) who made a motion that **HB 1274 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 49 0947S)**. Sen. Rhett (33rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of (6-1).

Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Hatchett (50th), Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd), Sen. Parent (42nd), and Sen. Rhett (33rd) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Jones (22nd) voted against the motion.

The Chair indicated that Sen. Cowsert (46th) would be the Senate sponsor of the bill.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 1274 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 49 0947S)**

**HB 1354 (Rep. Holcomb, 81st, LC 44 2038S) Wrongful Conviction Compensation Act; enact**

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

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

*Testimony in favor of the bill:*

Jill Travis, Georgia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers  
Pete Skandalakis, PAC

**NOTE:** Sen. Cowsert (46th) left early at 5:56 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Hatchett (50th) left the room at 6:00 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Hatchett (50th) returned at 6:02 p.m.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 1354 (LC 44 2038S) No action was taken**

**HB 1391 (Rep. Gunter, 8th, LC 28 0447) Criminal procedure; compensation for public defenders and assistant public defenders; revise**

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 to the public. He recognized the following:

*Testimony in favor of the bill:*

Omotayo Alli, Georgia Public Defenders Council  
James Woodall, Southern Center for Human Rights  
Pete Skandalakis, PAC

The Chair recognized Sen. Hatchett (50th) who made a motion that **HB 1391 Do Pass (LC 28 0447)**. Sen. Kennedy (18th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (6-0).

The Chair indicated that Sen. Hatchett (50th) would be the Senate Sponsor.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 1391 Do Pass (LC 28 0447)**

**HB 322 (Rep. Wiedower, 119th, LC 41 2860) Juvenile Code; revise definition of sexual exploitation**

The Chair recognized Rep. Marcus Wiedower (119th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Wiedower (119th) presented the bill to the Committee.

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

*Testimony in favor of the bill:*

Jerry Bruce, Director of the Office of Child Advocates

The Chair recognized Sen. Parent (42nd) who made a motion that **HB 322 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 48 0621S)**. Sen. Jones (22nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (6-0).

The Chair indicated that Sen. Brass (28th) would be the Senate Sponsor.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 322 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 48 0621S)**

Chairman Strickland (17th) adjourned the meeting at 6:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Sky Park, Recording Secretary