

**THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND YOUTH
2023-2024 ROSTER**

Sen. Clint Dixon, Chairman
District 45
P.O. Box 802
Buford, GA 30515

Sen. Chuck Payne, Vice-Chairman
District 54
P.O. Box 1074
Dalton, GA 30722

Sen. Freddie Powell Sims, Secretary
District 12
5377 Goose Hollow Road
Dawson, GA 31742

Sen. Matt Brass, Ex-Officio
District 28
P.O. Box 1313
Newnan, GA 30264

Sen. Greg Dolezal, Ex-Officio
District 27
6505 Shiloh Road, Suite 200
Alpharetta, GA 30005

Sen. Shelly Echols
District 49
7132 Sloan Stephens Rd.
Alto, GA 30510

Sen. Steve Gooch, Ex-Officio
District 51
P.O. Box 600
Dahlonega, GA 30533

Sen. Sonya Halpern
District 39
P.O. Box 13142
Atlanta, GA 30324

Sen. Donzella James
District 35
P.O. Box 311225
Atlanta, GA 30331

Sen. Elena Parent
District 42
121-A State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334

Sen. Ed Setzler
District 37
1555 Boxwood Trace
Acworth, GA 30102

Sen. Shawn Still
District 48
2850 Simpson Circle
Norcross, GA 30071

Sen. Horacena Tate
District 38
121-G State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Education and Youth
Tuesday, January 31st, 2023**

The Senate Committee on Education and Youth met on Tuesday, January 31st, 2023 at 2:30 p.m. in Room 450 of the State Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Clint Dixon (45th), Chairman
Sen. Chuck Payne (54th), Vice-Chairman (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary
Sen. Shelly Echols (49th) (*Left Early*)
Sen. Sonya Halpern (39th)
Sen. Donzella James (35th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd)
Sen. Ed Setzler (37th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Shawn Still (48th)

NOTE: Sen. Matt Brass (28th), Ex-Officio, Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th), Ex-Officio, Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Ex-Officio, and Sen. Horacena Tate (38th) were absent.

Chairman Dixon (45th) called the meeting to order at 2:33 p.m.

The Chair introduced himself and members of the Committee.

The Rules of the Committee were discussed. The Chair recognized Sen. Echols (49th) who made a motion to adopt the Committee Rules for the 2023-2024 Biennium. Sen. Halpern (39th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. A copy of the adopted Rules is attached.

The Chair announced that the Senate Committee on Higher Education would join the Senate Committee on Education and Youth for the remainder of the meeting.

The Chair recognized Superintendent Richard Woods, Georgia Department of Education, for a presentation.

The Chair recognized Mr. Matt Jones, Chief of Staff for Superintendent Richard Woods, to continue the presentation.

The Chair recognized Superintendent Richard Woods to continue the presentation.

NOTE: Sen. Setzler (37th) arrived at 2:36 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. James (35th) arrived at 2:44 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Payne (54th) arrived at 3:07 p.m.

The Chair recognized Dr. Dana Rickman, Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education (GPEE), for a presentation.

NOTE: Sen. Echols (49th) left at 3:46 p.m.

Chairman Dixon (45th) adjourned the meeting at 3:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary

/s/

Rachel Whitted, Recording Secretary

**THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND YOUTH
2023-2024 COMMITTEE RULES**

The Rules of the Committee shall be the Rules of the Subcommittees.

1. The quorum for the Education and Youth Committee shall be 6 members. Record of attendance will be maintained for each full Committee or subcommittee meeting. This information shall be considered public.
2. The Committee shall convene, recess and adjourn upon the order of the Chairman. Recess or adjournment of the Committee may also take place by an affirmative vote of a majority of the members present.
3. A bill or resolution will only be placed on the Committee agenda after its principal sponsor completes a bill summary form. When a bill or resolution is placed on the Committee agenda, the principal sponsor shall be notified of the time and the place of the hearing. A bill, resolution, or other matter will be considered only after presentation by its principal sponsor or a legislator designated by the principal sponsor.
4. The Chairman shall establish the meeting agenda and determine the measures to be considered and the order of consideration. No motion that the Committee recommends (Do Pass, Do Not Pass, etc.) shall be in order until the Chairman has stated that such a motion will be entertained.
5. The Chairman may appoint subcommittees and officers of subcommittees, and at the discretion of the Chairman, refer any matter to a subcommittee, but no measure will be returned to the full Senate until it is considered by the full Committee. All Committee officers will be ex-officio voting subcommittee members.
6. Any member or members who disagree with the majority report of the Committee may file a minority report as provided in the Rules of the Senate.
7. These Rules may be amended or suspended upon the motion duly made and approved by a majority of the members of the Committee.
8. Five minutes prior to, during, and five minutes after a televised or web-cast Committee meeting, no one other than a member of the Committee, Legislative Counsel, Committee Aide, Administrative Assistant to the Chairman, or Committee Intern shall walk beyond the witness pulpit for any reason.
9. During Committee meetings, Committee members and everyone in the audience shall either turn off or place on silent mode all cell phones, pagers or other similar devices.
10. Any proposed measure shall include a fiscal note when appropriate, as determined by the Chairman, prior to Committee consideration.
11. All publications, flyers, or any other materials to be distributed to the Committee shall be given to the Chairman or their assistant and will be distributed by the Chairman at the appropriate time.
12. Except for Legislative Counsel, no one shall speak to a member of the Committee while a televised or web-cast meeting is in progress without first obtaining the consent of the Chairman. A request to speak should be given to the Administrative Aide or Committee Aide, which will then be passed to the Chairman for approval.

13. Action may be taken by the Committee on any bill the first time it is presented, (except for those matters deemed as “Hearing Only” by the Chairman.) The Chairman shall have the option to take action on a resolution.
14. Committee and Subcommittee members may question witnesses only when they have been recognized by the Chairman for that purpose. The Chairman may also set time limits for the process.
15. The Secretary of the Committee shall provide a copy of the Rules to all members of the Senate.

**Minutes of the Joint Meeting of the Senate Committees on Education and Youth and
Higher Education
Wednesday, February 1st, 2023**

The Senate Committees on Education and Youth and Higher Education met on Wednesday, February 1st, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Clint Dixon (45th), Chairman
Sen. Chuck Payne (54th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary
Sen. Shelly Echols (49th) (*Left Early*)
Sen. Sonya Halpern (39th)
Sen. Donzella James (35th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd) (*Left Early*)
Sen. Shawn Still (48th) (*Left Early*)

NOTE: Sen. Matt Brass (28th), Ex-Officio, Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th), Ex-Officio, Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Ex-Officio, Sen. Ed Setzler (37th), and Sen. Horacena Tate (38th) were absent.

Chairman Billy Hickman (Higher Education Chairman, 4th) called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

The Chair recognized Chancellor Sonny Perdue, University System of Georgia, for a presentation.

NOTE: Sen. James (35th) arrived at 2:30 p.m.

The Chair recognized Dr. Holley Roberts and Dr. Kristina Dandy, Sandra Dunagan Deal Center at Georgia College and State University, for a presentation.

NOTE: Sen. Echols (49th) left at 2:55 p.m.

The Chair recognized Fulton County Schools Superintendent Dr. Mike Looney for a presentation.

The Chair recognized Mr. Clifford Jones, Fulton County Schools, and Dr. Gyimah Whitaker, Fulton County Schools, to continue the presentation.

NOTE: Sen. Payne (54th) left at 3:11 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Payne (54th) returned at 3:12 p.m.

The Chair recognized Dr. Shawonna Coleman, Georgia Math and Reading Corps, for a presentation on the AmeriCorps Tutor Program and Teacher Pipeline Opportunities.

NOTE: Sen. Still (48th) left at 3:33 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Payne (54th) left at 3:42 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Payne (54th) returned at 3:46 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Parent (42nd) left at 3:50 p.m.

Chairman Hickman (4th) adjourned the meeting at 3:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary

/s/

Rachel Whitted, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Joint Meeting of the Senate Committees on Education and Youth and
Higher Education
Tuesday, February 7th, 2023**

The Senate Committees on Education and Youth and Higher Education met on Tuesday, February 7th, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. in Room 450 of the State Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Clint Dixon (45th), Chairman
Sen. Chuck Payne (54th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Sonya Halpern (39th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Donzella James (35th)
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Ed Setzler (37th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Shawn Still (48th)

NOTE: Sen. Matt Brass (28th), Ex-Officio, Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th), Ex-Officio, Sen. Shelly Echols (49th), Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Ex-Officio, and Sen. Horacena Tate (38th) were absent.

Chairman Dixon (45th) called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

The Chair recognized Commissioner Amy Jacobs, Department of Early Care and Learning, for a presentation.

NOTE: Sen. Parent (42nd) arrived at 3:05 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Halpern (39th) arrived at 3:05 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Setzler (37th) arrived at 3:05 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Sims (12th) arrived at 3:07 p.m.

The Chair recognized Ms. Joy Hawkins, Governor's Office of Student Achievement, for a presentation alongside Ms. Kathy Matthews and Ms. Kristy Kueber.

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

The Chair recognized Ms. Arianne Weldon, Get Georgia Reading, for a presentation.

NOTE: Sen. Still (48th) left at 3:48 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Still (48th) returned at 3:49 p.m.

The Chair recognized Mr. Stephen Pruitt, Southern Region Education Board, for a presentation.

NOTE: Sen. Parent (42nd) returned at 4:22 p.m.

Chairman Dixon (45th) adjourned the meeting at 4:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary

/s/

Rachel Whitted, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Joint Meeting of the Senate Committees on Education and Youth and
Higher Education
Wednesday, February 8th, 2023**

The Senate Committees on Education and Youth and Higher Education met on Wednesday, February 8th, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Clint Dixon (45th), Chairman
Sen. Chuck Payne (54th), Vice-Chairman (*Arrived Late*) (*Left Early*)
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary (*Left Early*)
Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th), Ex-Officio (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Shelly Echols (49th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Sonya Halpern (39th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Donzella James (35th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Ed Setzler (37th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Shawn Still (48th)

NOTE: Sen. Matt Brass (28th), Ex-Officio, Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Ex-Officio, and Sen. Horacena Tate (38th) were absent.

Chairman Hickman (Higher Education Chairman, 4th) called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

The Chair recognized Dr. Cayanna Good, Assistant Commissioner of Adult Education at Technical College System of Georgia, and Commissioner Greg Dozier, Technical College System of Georgia, for a presentation on Certified Literate Community Programs.

NOTE: Sen. James (35th) arrived at 2:05 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Echols (49th) arrived at 2:07 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Parent (42nd) arrived at 2:09 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Payne (54th) arrived at 2:10 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Halpern (39th) arrived at 2:10 p.m.

The Chair recognized Bulloch County Schools Superintendent Charles Wilson, and Ms. Crystal Simpkins, Bulloch County Schools, for a presentation.

The Chair recognized Dr. Beth McMichael, Barrow County Schools, and Barrow County Schools Superintendent Dr. Chris McMichael for a presentation.

NOTE: Sen. Setzler (37th) arrived at 2:46 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Payne (54th) left at 2:50 p.m.

The Chair recognized Marietta City Schools Superintendent Dr. Grant Rivera for a presentation.

NOTE: Sen. Dolezal (27th) arrived at 2:51 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Sims (12th) left at 3:02 p.m.

Chairman Hickman (4th) adjourned the meeting at 3:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary

/s/

Rachel Whitted, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Education and Youth
Tuesday, February 14th, 2023**

The Senate Committee on Education and Youth met on Tuesday, February 14th, 2023 at 2:30 p.m. in Room 450 of the State Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Clint Dixon (45th), Chairman
Sen. Chuck Payne (54th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary
Sen. Matt Brass (28th), Ex-Officio (*Left Early*)
Sen. Shelly Echols (49th)
Sen. Sonya Halpern (39th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Donzella James (35th)
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd)
Sen. Ed Setzler (37th) (*Arrived Late*) (*Left Early*)
Sen. Shawn Still (48th)

NOTE: Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th), Ex-Officio, Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Ex-Officio, and Sen. Horacena Tate (38th) were absent.

Chairman Dixon (45th) called the meeting to order at 2:40 p.m.

SB 50 (Sen. Burns, 23rd, LC 54 0142) Education; local boards of education which operate a school with grades nine through 12 may provide instruction in lifeguarding and aquatic safety; provide

The Chair recognized Sen. Max Burns (23rd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Burns (23rd) presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Setzler (37th) arrived at 2:41 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Halpern (39th) arrived at 2:41 p.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Halpern (39th) who made a motion that **SB 50 Do Pass (LC 54 0142)**. Sen. Sims (12th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SB 50 DO PASS (LC 54 0142)

SB 123 (Sen. Anavitarte, 31st, LC 49 1213) Educational Programs; state funded administration of a nationally recognized career and college readiness assessment and an assessment leading to a nationally recognized workforce credential; require

The Chair recognized Sen. Jason Anavitarte (31st) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Anavitarte (31st) presented the bill to the Committee alongside Ms. Emily Yona from Impact Public Affairs and Mr. Michael O’Sullivan from GeorgiaCAN.

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

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Ms. Korynn Schooley, Achieve Atlanta
Dr. Kenya Gilliard, Atlanta Public Schools

Testimony in opposition to the bill:

None

The Chair recognized Sen. Setzler (37th) who made a motion that **SB 123 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 49 1292S)**. Sen. Parent (42nd) seconded the motion.

NOTE: Sen. Parent (42nd) left at 3:23 p.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Setzler (37th) who made a motion to **Amend** by adding “to provide for contingent effectiveness regarding state funded assessments;” following “such assessments;” on line 13 and adding at line 51 a new Section 2 and re-designating the following section accordingly. Sen. Still (48th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

NOTE: Sen. Parent (42nd) returned at 3:26 p.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Setzler (37th) who made a motion that **SB 123 Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Parent (42nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 7-2.

Sen. Payne (54th), Sen. Echols (49th), Sen. Halpern (39th), Sen. James (35th), Sen. Parent (42nd), Sen. Setzler (37th), and Sen. Still (48th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Sims (12th) and Sen. Brass (28th) voted against the motion.

Committee Recommendation: SB 123 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 49 1297S)

NOTE: Sen. Brass (28th) left at 3:28 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Parent (42nd) left at 3:28 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Setzler (37th) left at 3:29 p.m.

SB 32 (Sen. Anavitarte, 31st, LC 49 1068) “Alyssa’s Law”

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

The Chair recognized Sen. Payne (54th) who made a motion that **SB 32 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 49 1209S)**. Sen. Echols (49th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SB 32 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 49 1209S)

SB 88 (Sen. Summers, 13th, LC 33 9276) “Parents and Children Protection Act of 2023”;
enact

The Chair indicated that SB 88 would receive a hearing only.

The Chair recognized Sen. Carden Summers (13th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Summers (13th) presented the bill to the Committee alongside Mr. Tom Rawlings from Taylor English.

NOTE: Sen. Parent (42nd) returned at 3:39 p.m.

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

Testimony in favor of the bill:

None

Testimony in opposition to the bill:

Mr. Buddy Costley, Georgia Association of Educational Leaders

Ms. Sarah Hunt-Blackwell, American Civil Liberties Union

Committee Recommendation: SB 88 (LC 33 9276) No Action Taken

NOTE: Sen. Sims (12th) left at 3:50 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Sims (12th) returned at 3:55 p.m.

Chairman Dixon (45th) adjourned the meeting at 3:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary

/s/

Rachel Whitted, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Education and Youth
Tuesday, February 21st, 2023**

The Senate Committee on Education and Youth met on Tuesday, February 21st, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. in Room 450 of the State Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Clint Dixon (45th), Chairman
Sen. Chuck Payne (54th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary
Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Shelly Echols (49th)
Sen. Donzella James (35th)
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd)
Sen. Shawn Still (48th)
Sen. Horacena Tate (38th)

NOTE: Sen. Matt Brass (28th), Ex-Officio, Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Ex-Officio, Sen. Sonya Halpern (39th), and Sen. Ed Setzler (37th) were absent.

Chairman Dixon (45th) called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

SB 170 (Sen. Albers, 56th, LC 49 1270) “Students and Teachers SPEAK 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 alongside Mr. Jake Hayes and Mr. Adam Szczupak.

The Chair recognized Sen. Parent (42nd) who made a motion that **SB 170 Do Pass (LC 49 1270)**. Sen. Still (48th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SB 170 DO PASS (LC 49 1270)

SB 169 (Sen. Payne, 54th, LC 49 1261) Public Schools; extension of hearing dates for student discipline tribunals; provide for limits

The Chair recognized Sen. Payne (54th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Payne (54th) presented the bill to the Committee alongside Ms. Caren Cloud from Georgia Appleseed.

The Chair recognized Sen. James (35th) who made a motion that **SB 169 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 49 1338S)**. Sen. Sims (12th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SB 169 DO PASS BY STUBSTITUTE (LC 49 1338S)

SB 96 (Sen. Anavitarte, 31st, LC 49 1055) Professional Standards Commission; the commission's standards and procedures for certification programs shall be neutral; 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 for comments from the public. He recognized the following:

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Mr. Dave Howland, Teach for America

Mr. Michael O’Sullivan, GeorgiaCAN

Testimony in opposition to the bill:

None

NOTE: Chairman Dixon (45th) left at 3:36 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Payne (54th), Vice-Chairman, assumed the Chair at 3:36 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Still (48th) left at 3:36 p.m.

The Vice-Chair recognized Sen. Echols (49th) who made a motion that **SB 96 Do Pass (LC 49 1055)**. Sen. Dolezal (27th) seconded the motion.

The Vice-Chair recognized Sen. Dolezal (27th) who made a motion to **Amend** the bill by adding “for in state certification” after the word “Consider” on line 32 and by adding “are state sponsored and” after “which” on line 33. Sen. Echols (49th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 5-1.

Sen. Dolezal (27th), Sen. Echols (49th), Sen. James (35th), Sen. Parent (42nd), and Sen. Tate (38th) voted in favor of the motion.

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

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

The Vice-Chair recognized Sen. Echols (49th) who made a motion that **SB 96 Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Dolezal (27th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 4-2.

Sen. Dolezal (27th), Sen. Echols (49th), Sen. James (35th), and Sen. Parent (42nd) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Sims (12th) and Sen. Tate (38th) voted against the motion.

Committee Recommendation: SB 96 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 44 2302S)

SB 18 (Sen. James, 35th, LC 49 1094) Intradistrict transfers; students and their siblings to attend the same schools so long as they continue to reside in the same resident school system; provide

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

The Vice-Chair stated that SB 18 would receive a hearing only.

NOTE: Sen. Still (48th) returned at 3:46 p.m.

NOTE: Chairman Dixon (45th) returned at 3:46 p.m.

NOTE: Chairman Dixon (45th) resumed the chair at 3:46 p.m.

Committee Recommendation: SB 18 (LC 49 1094) No Action Taken

Chairman Dixon (45th) adjourned the meeting at 3:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary

/s/

Rachel Whitted, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Education and Youth
Monday, February 27th, 2023**

The Senate Committee on Education and Youth met on Monday, February 27th, 2023 at 7:00 a.m. in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Clint Dixon (45th), Chairman
Sen. Chuck Payne (54th), Vice-Chairman (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary
Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Shelly Echols (49th) (*Left Early*)
Sen. Sonya Halpern (39th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Donzella James (35th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Ed Setzler (37th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Shawn Still (48th)
Sen. Horacena Tate (38th)

NOTE: Sen. Matt Brass (28th), Ex-Officio, and Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Ex-Officio, were absent.

Chairman Dixon (45th) called the meeting to order at 7:01 a.m.

SB 4 (Sen. Davenport, 44th, LC 49 1121) “Blind Persons' Braille Literacy Rights and Education Act”; enact

The Chair recognized Sen. Gail Davenport (44th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Davenport (44th) presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Dolezal (27th) left at 7:02 a.m.
NOTE: Sen. Dolezal (27th) returned at 7:04 a.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Sims (12th) who made a motion that **SB 4 Do Pass (LC 49 1121)**. Sen. Tate (38th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SB 4 DO PASS (LC 49 1121)

SB 202 (Sen. Rahman, 5th, LC 49 1112) Public School Property and Facilities; outdoor learning spaces pilot program; provide

The Chair recognized Sen. Sheikh Rahman (5th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Rahman (5th) presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Parent (42nd) arrived at 7:07 a.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Parent (42nd) who made a motion that **SB 202 Do Pass (LC 49 1112)**. Sen. Tate (38th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SB 202 DO PASS (LC 49 1112)

NOTE: Sen. Halpern (39th) arrived at 7:09 a.m.

SB 98 (Sen. Anavitarte, 31st, LC 49 1201) Local Boards of Education; local board of education members from discussing individual personnel matters with school officials; prohibit

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. James (35th) arrived at 7:13 a.m.

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

Testimony in favor of the bill:

None

Testimony in opposition to the bill:

Ms. Stephanie Tanner, Georgia School Board Association

Mr. Justin Pauly, Georgia School Board Association

Dr. Joseph Barrow, Deputy Director of Georgia School Superintendents Association

Mr. Buddy Costley, Georgia Association of Educational Leaders

NOTE: Sen. Payne (54th) arrived at 7:35 a.m.

NOTE: Sen. Setzler (37th) arrived at 7:37 a.m.

NOTE: Sen. Echols (49th) left at 7:41 a.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Setzler (37th) who made a motion that **SB 98 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 49 1360S)**. Sen. Halpern (39th) seconded the motion.

The Chair recognized Sen. Dolezal (27th) who made a motion to **Amend** by replacing the period on line 27 after the word “law” with a semicolon and inserting “provided, however, that the mere referral of a personnel matter to the local school superintendent shall not be prohibited.” and making the same change on line 43. Sen. Payne (54th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair recognized Sen. Dolezal (27th) who made a motion to **Amend** by inserting “to provide for a short title;” following “exception;” on line 7, inserting a new Section 1 on line 10 which would read “This Act shall be known and may be cited as the “Kathy West Act.””, and re-designating the following sections accordingly. Sen. Payne (54th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 8-1.

Sen. Payne (54th), Sen. Dolezal (27th), Sen. Halpern (39th), Sen James (35th), Sen. Parent (42nd), Sen. Setzler (37th), Sen. Still (48th), and Sen. Tate (38th) voted in favor of the motion.

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

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

The Chair recognized Sen. Setzler (37th) who made a motion that **SB 98 Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Halpern (39th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 7-2.

Sen. Payne (54th), Sen. Dolezal (27th), Sen. Halpern (39th), Sen. Parent (42nd), Sen. Setzler (37th), Sen. Still (48th), and Sen. Tate (38th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Sims (12th) and Sen. James (35th) voted against the motion.

Committee Recommendation: SB 98 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 49 1376S)

Chairman Dixon (45th) adjourned the meeting at 8:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary

/s/

Rachel Whitted, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Education and Youth
Tuesday, February 28th, 2023**

The Senate Committee on Education and Youth met on Tuesday, February 28th, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. in Room 450 of the State Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Clint Dixon (45th), Chairman
Sen. Chuck Payne (54th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary
Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Shelly Echols (49th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Ex-Officio (*Arrived Late*) (*Left Early*)
Sen. Sonya Halpern (39th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Donzella James (35th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd)
Sen. Ed Setzler (37th)
Sen. Shawn Still (48th)
Sen. Horacena Tate (38th) (*Arrived Late*)

NOTE: Sen. Matt Brass (28th), Ex-Officio, was absent.

Chairman Dixon (45th) called the meeting to order at 3:34 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. James (35th) arrived at 3:35 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Echols (49th) arrived at 3:35 p.m.

[SB 211](#) (Sen. Hickman, 4th, LC 49 1301) Georgia Council on Literacy; establish

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

NOTE: Sen. Halpern (39th) arrived at 3:36 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Tate (38th) arrived at 3:37 p.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Setzler (37th) who made a motion that **SB 211 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 49 1370S)**. Sen. Echols (49th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SB 211 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 49 1370S)

[SB 233](#) (Sen. Dolezal, 27th, LC 49 1349) 'The Georgia Promise Scholarship Act'; establishment of promise scholarship accounts

The Chair recognized Sen. Dolezal (27th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Dolezal (27th) presented the bill to the Committee alongside Ms. Jamie Lord from Georgia Center for Opportunity.

NOTE: Sen. Gooch (51st) arrived at 3:43 p.m.

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

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Mr. Buzz Brockway, Georgia Center for Opportunity
Ms. Holly Terei, Parent
Ms. Molly Gareau, Parent
Ms. Amanda and Mr. Gabriel McGee, Parent and Child
Mr. Taylor Hawkins, Frontline Policy Action

Testimony in opposition to the bill:

Ms. Cindy Battles, The People's Agenda
President Lisa Morgan, Georgia Association of Educators
Ms. Kathy Statham, U.S. Citizen

The Chair recognized Sen. Setzler (37th) who made a motion that **SB 233 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 49 1388S)**. Sen. Still (48th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 6-5.

Sen. Payne (54th), Sen. Dolezal (27th), Sen. Echols (49th), Sen. Gooch (51st), Sen. Setzler (37th), and Sen. Still (48th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Sims (12th), Sen. Halpern (39th), Sen. James (35th), Sen. Parent (42nd), and Sen. Tate (38th) voted against the motion.

Committee Recommendation: SB 233 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 49 1388S)

NOTE: Sen. Gooch (51st) left at 4:18 p.m.

SB 204 (Sen. Dolezal, 27th, LC 49 1307) Education Accountability; recognition of certain accrediting agencies as evaluators of the quality of education offered in public schools in this state; provide

The Chair recognized Sen. Dolezal (27th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Dolezal (27th) 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:

Mr. John Floresta, Cobb County Schools

Testimony in opposition to the bill:

None

The Chair recognized Sen. Still (48th) who made a motion that **SB 204 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 49 1390S)**. Sen. Setzler (37th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 8-2.

Sen. Payne (54th), Sen. Dolezal (27th), Sen. Echols (49th), Sen. James (35th), Sen. Parent (42nd), Sen. Setzler (37th), Sen. Still (48th), and Sen. Tate (38th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Sims (12th) and Sen. Halpern (39th) voted against the motion.

Committee Recommendation: SB 204 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 49 1390S)

Chairman Dixon (45th) adjourned the meeting at 4:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary

/s/

Rachel Whitted, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Education and Youth
Wednesday, March 1st, 2023**

The Senate Committee on Education and Youth met on Wednesday, March 1st, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Clint Dixon (45th), Chairman
Sen. Chuck Payne (54th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary (*Arrived Late*) (*Left Early*)
Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Shelly Echols (49th)
Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Ex-Officio (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Sonya Halpern (39th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Donzella James (35th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Ed Setzler (37th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Shawn Still (48th)
Sen. Horacena Tate (38th) (*Left Early*)

NOTE: Sen. Matt Brass (28th), Ex-Officio, was absent.

Chairman Dixon (45th) called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

SB 208 (Sen. Dolezal, 27th, LC 49 1280) 'Georgia Development Impact Fee Act'; provide for fees for education

The Chair recognized Sen. Dolezal (27th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Dolezal (27th) presented the bill to the Committee alongside Sen. Jason Anavitarte (31st).

NOTE: Sen. Setzler (37th) arrived at 10:06 a.m.
NOTE: Sen. Halpern (39th) arrived at 10:07 a.m.
NOTE: Sen. James (35th) arrived at 10:07 a.m.
NOTE: Sen. Parent (42nd) arrived at 10:07 a.m.
NOTE: Sen. Gooch (51st) arrived at 10:07 a.m.

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

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Ms. Stephanie Tanner, Georgia School Board Association
Mr. Buddy Costley, Georgia Association of Educational Leaders

Testimony in opposition to the bill:

Mr. Austin Hackney, Home Builders Association of Georgia
Mr. Haydon Stanley, Georgia Apartment Association

NOTE: Sen. Sims (12th) arrived at 10:13 a.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Setzler (37th) who made a motion that **SB 208 Do Pass (LC 49 1280)**. Sen. Still (48th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 6-5.

Sen. Payne (54th), Sen. Dolezal (27th), Sen. Parent (42nd), Sen. Setzler (37th), and Sen. Still (48th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Sims (12th), Sen. Echols (49th), Sen. Gooch (51st), Sen. Halpern (39th), and Sen. James (35th) voted against the motion.

Sen. Dixon (45th) voted in favor of the motion to break the tie.

Committee Recommendation: SB 208 DO PASS (LC 49 1280)

SR 189 (Sen. Dolezal, 27th, LC 49 1327) General Assembly; development impact fees for educational purposes; provide -CA

The Chair recognized Sen. Dolezal (27th) for the purpose of presenting the resolution. Sen. Dolezal (27th) presented the resolution to the Committee alongside Sen. Anavitarte (31st). The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public. He recognized the following:

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Ms. Stephanie Tanner, Georgia School Board Association

Mr. Buddy Costley, Georgia Association of Educational Leaders

Testimony in opposition to the bill:

Mr. Austin Hackney, Home Builders Association of Georgia

Mr. Haydon Stanley, Georgia Apartment Association

The Chair recognized Sen. Setzler (37th) who made a motion that **SR 189 Do Pass (LC 49 1327)**. Sen. Still (48th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 6-5.

Sen. Payne (54th), Sen. Dolezal (27th), Sen. Parent (42nd), Sen. Setzler (37th), and Sen. Still (48th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Sims (12th), Sen. Echols (49th), Sen. Gooch (51st), Sen. Halpern (39th), and Sen. James (35th) voted against the motion.

Sen. Dixon (45th) voted in favor of the motion to break the tie.

Committee Recommendation: SR 189 DO PASS (LC 49 1327)

**SB 147 (Sen. Still, 48th, LC 49 1233) “Boundless Opportunities for Georgia Students Act”;
enact**

The Chair recognized Sen. Still (48th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Still (48th) presented the bill to the Committee alongside Mr. Michael Shelnett from McGuire Woods Consulting.

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

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Mr. Tony West, Americans for Prosperity Georgia
Mr. Mack Parnell, Georgia Faith and Freedom Coalition

Testimony in opposition to the bill:

Mr. Buddy Costley, Georgia Association of Educational Leaders

NOTE: Sen. Sims (12th) left at 10:43 a.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Dolezal (27th) who made a motion that **SB 147 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 49 1365S)**. Sen. Setzler (37th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 6-4.

Sen. Payne (54th), Sen. Dolezal (27th), Sen. Echols (49th), Sen. Gooch (51st), Sen. Setzler (37th), and Sen. Still (48th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Halpern (39th), Sen. James (35th), Sen. Parent (42nd), and Sen. Tate (38th) voted against the motion.

Committee Recommendation: SB 147 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 49 1365S)

**SB 88 (Sen. Summers, 13th, LC 33 9276) “Parents and Children Protection Act of 2023”;
enact**

The Chair recognized Sen. Carden Summers (13th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Summers (13th) presented the bill to the Committee alongside Mr. Tom Rawlings from Taylor English.

NOTE: Sen. Tate (38th) left at 10:50 a.m.

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

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Ms. Anne Walsh, Parent

Testimony in opposition to the bill:

Ms. Stephanie Tanner, Georgia School Board Association
Ms. Tracey Nance, 2020-2021 Georgia Teacher of the Year
Principal Christine Knox, Westchester Elementary School
Mr. Mike Griffin, Georgia Baptist Mission Board

The Chair recognized Sen. Parent (42nd) who made a motion to **Table SB 88 (LC 33 9276)**.
Sen. Halpern (39th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 8-1.

Sen. Payne (54th), Sen. Dolezal (27th), Sen. Echols (49th), Sen. Halpern (39th), Sen. James
(35th), Sen. Parent (42nd), Sen. Setzler (37th), and Sen. Still (48th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Gooch (51st) voted against the motion.

Committee Recommendation: SB 88 (LC 33 9276) Tabled

Chairman Dixon adjourned the meeting at 11:07 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

Sen. Clint Dixon (45th), Chairman

/s/

Rachel Whitted, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Education and Youth
Tuesday, March 7th, 2023**

The Senate Committee on Education and Youth met on Tuesday, March 7th, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Clint Dixon (45th), Chairman
Sen. Chuck Payne (54th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Shelly Echols (49th)
Sen. Sonya Halpern (39th)
Sen. Donzella James (35th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Ed Setzler (37th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Shawn Still (48th)
Sen. Horacena Tate (38th)

NOTE: Sen. Matt Brass (28th), Ex-Officio, Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Ex-Officio, and Sen. Elena Parent (42nd) were absent.

Chairman Dixon (45th) called the meeting to order at 3:25 p.m.

[HB 402](#) (Rep. Hilton, 48th, LC 49 1355S) Education; water safety education information to parents of students under 18 years of age and to students 18 years of age and older; provide

The Chair recognized Rep. Scott Hilton (48th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Hilton (48th) presented the bill to the Committee alongside Ms. Casey McGovern from Every Child a Swimmer.

NOTE: Sen. James (35th) arrived at 3:31 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Sims (12th) arrived at 3:33 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Setzler (37th) arrived at 3:35 p.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Halpern (39th) who made a motion that **HB 402 Do Pass (LC 49 1355S)**. Sen. Still (48th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair indicated that Sen. Still (48th) would be the Senate Sponsor.

Committee Recommendation: HB 402 DO PASS (LC 49 1355S)

[HB 147](#) (Rep. Wade, 9th, LC 49 1174-EC) Safe Schools Act; enact

The Chair recognized Rep. Will Wade (9th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Wade (9th) presented the bill to the committee alongside Sen. Mike Hodges (3rd).

The Chair recognized Sen. Payne (54th) who made a motion that **HB 147 Do Pass (LC 49 1174-EC)**. Sen. Echols (49th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair indicated that Sen. Hodges (3rd) would be the Senate Sponsor.

Committee Recommendation: HB 147 DO PASS (LC 49 1174-EC)

Chairman Dixon adjourned the meeting at 3:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary

/s/

Rachel Whitted, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Joint Meeting of the Senate Committees on Education and Youth and
Children and Families
Tuesday, March 14th, 2023**

The Senate Committees on Education and Youth and Children and Families met on Tuesday, March 14th, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. in Room 450 of the State Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Clint Dixon (45th), Chairman
Sen. Chuck Payne (54th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary
Sen. Matt Brass (28th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th), Ex-Officio (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Shelly Echols (49th)
Sen. Sonya Halpern (39th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Donzella James (35th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Shawn Still (48th)
Sen. Horacena Tate (38th)

NOTE: Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Ex-Officio, and Sen. Ed Setzler (37th) were absent.

Chairman Dixon (45th) called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

The Chair recognized Mr. Stephen McNeil from Amwell for a presentation on Youth Mental Health Services.

NOTE: Sen. Dolezal (27th) arrived at 3:02 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Parent (42nd) arrived at 3:06 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Halpern (39th) arrived at 3:07 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. James (35th) arrived at 3:15 p.m.

Chairman Dixon (45th) adjourned the meeting at 3:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary

/s/

Rachel Whitted, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Education and Youth
Tuesday, March 14th, 2023**

The Senate Committee on Education and Youth met on Tuesday, March 14th, 2023 upon adjournment of the Joint Meeting of the Senate Committees on Education and Youth and Children and Families in Room 450 of the State Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Clint Dixon (45th), Chairman
Sen. Chuck Payne (54th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary
Sen. Matt Brass (28th), Ex-Officio (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Shelly Echols (49th)
Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Ex-Officio (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Sonya Halpern (39th)
Sen. Donzella James (35th)
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd)
Sen. Shawn Still (48th)
Sen. Horacena Tate (38th)

NOTE: Sen. Ed Setzler (37th) was absent.

Chairman Dixon (45th) called the meeting to order at 3:22 p.m.

HB 87 (Rep. Erwin, 32nd, LC 49 1204S) Nontraditional Special Schools Act; enact

The Chair recognized Rep. Chris Erwin (32nd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Erwin (32nd) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair indicated that HB 87 would receive a hearing only.

NOTE: Sen. Gooch (51st) arrived at 3:23 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Brass (28th) arrived at 3:45 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Sims (12th) left at 3:52 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Sims (12th) returned at 3:53 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Sims (12th) left at 3:53 p.m.

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

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Ms. Kerry Pritchard, Georgia Department of Education
Ms. Sherrie Gibney-Sherman, Foothills Education Charter High School
Mr. Wayne Lovell, Mountain Education Charter High School
Mr. Richard Rentz, Coastal Plains Education Charter High School

Testimony in opposition to the bill:

None

NOTE: Sen. Sims (12th) returned at 3:59 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Payne (54th) left at 4:04 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Sims (12th) left at 4:06 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Payne (54th) returned at 4:07 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Sims (12th) returned at 4:07 p.m.

Committee Recommendation: HB 87 (LC 49 1204S) No Action Taken

HB 340 (Rep. Corbett, 174th, LC 49 1385S) Education; daily duty-free planning periods for teachers in grades six through twelve; provide

The Chair recognized Rep. Erwin (32nd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Erwin (32nd) presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Gooch (51st) left at 4:16 p.m.

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

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Ms. Margaret Ciccarelli, Professional Association of Georgia Educators

Mr. Buddy Costley, Georgia Association of Educational Leaders

Ms. DeAnna Harris, Educators First

Testimony in opposition to the bill:

None

NOTE: Sen. Gooch (51st) returned at 4:22 p.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Payne (54th) who made a motion that **HB 340 Do Pass (LC 49 1385S)**. Sen. Echols (49th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 10-1.

Sen. Payne (54th), Sen. Sims (12th), Sen. Dolezal (27th), Sen. Echols (49th), Sen. Gooch (51st), Sen. Halpern (39th), Sen. James (35th), Sen. Parent (42nd), Sen. Still (48th), and Sen. Tate (38th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Brass (28th) voted against the motion.

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

Committee Recommendation: HB 340 DO PASS (LC 49 1385S)

Chairman Dixon (45th) adjourned the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary

/s/

Rachel Whitted, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Education and Youth
Tuesday, March 21st, 2023**

The Senate Committee on Education and Youth met on Tuesday, March 21st, 2023 at 8:00 a.m. in Room 450 of the State Capitol. The following members were in attendance:

Sen. Clint Dixon (45th), Chairman
Sen. Chuck Payne (54th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary (*Left Early*)
Sen. John Albers (56th), Ex-Officio (*Left Early*)
Sen. Jason Anavitarte (31st), Ex-Officio (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th), Ex-Officio (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Shelly Echols (49th) (*Arrived Late*) (*Left Early*)
Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Ex-Officio (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Sonya Halpern (39th) (*Arrived Late*) (*Left Early*)
Sen. Billy Hickman (4th), Ex-Officio (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Donzella James (35th) (*Arrived Late*) (*Left Early*)
Sen. Shawn Still (48th)
Sen. Horacena Tate (38th) (*Left Early*)

NOTE: Sen. Matt Brass (28th), Ex-Officio, Sen. Elena Parent (42nd), and Sen. Ed Setzler (37th) were absent.

NOTE: Sen. John Albers (56th), Sen. Jason Anavitarte (31st), and Sen. Billy Hickman (4th) were appointed to the Senate Committee on Education and Youth, as Ex-Officio members, by the Committee on Assignments for the Meeting held on March 21st, 2023. Copies of the appointment letters are attached.

Chairman Dixon (45th) called the meeting to order at 8:14 a.m.

The Chair stated that for all bills on the agenda, the Committee would hear public testimony only from individuals opposed to the legislation.

[HB 51](#) (Rep. Pirkle, 169th, LC 49 1286S) Education; local boards of education use vehicles other than school buses for transport of students; authorize

The Chair recognized Rep. Clay Pirkle (169th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Pirkle (169th) presented the bill to the Committee alongside Sen. Randy Robertson (29th).

NOTE: Sen. Halpern (39th) arrived at 8:19 a.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Payne (54th) who made a motion that **HB 51 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 49 1439S)**. Sen. Still (48th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 5-1.

Sen. Payne (54th), Sen. Halpern (39th), Sen. Still (48th), Sen. Tate (38th), and Sen. Albers (56th) voted in favor of the motion.

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

The Chair indicated that Sen. Robertson (29th) would be the Senate Sponsor.

Committee Recommendation: HB 51 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 49 1439S)

NOTE: Sen. Albers (56th) left at 8:25 a.m.

HB 81 (Rep. Corbett, 174th, LC 49 1061) Education; eligibility criteria for certain capital outlay grants for low-wealth school systems; revise

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 recognized Sen. Still (48th) who made a motion that **HB 81 Do Pass (LC 49 1061)**. Sen. Sims (12th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair indicated that Sen. Sims (12th) would be the Senate Sponsor.

Committee Recommendation: HB 81 DO PASS (LC 49 1061)

HB 306 (Rep. Fleming, 114th, LC 47 2214S) Education; energy cost savings measures; revise definition

The Chair recognized Rep. Tim Fleming (114th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Fleming (114th) presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Anavitarte (31st) arrived at 8:34 a.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Still (48th) who made a motion that **HB 306 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 47 2486S)**. Sen. Payne (54th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 4-2.

Sen. Payne (54th), Sen. Halpern (39th), Sen. Still (48th), and Sen. Anavitarte (31st) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Sims (12th) and Sen. Tate (38th) voted against the motion.

The Chair indicated that Sen. Dixon (45th) would be the Senate Sponsor.

Committee Recommendation: HB 306 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 47 2486S)

NOTE: Sen. James (35th) arrived at 8:35 a.m.

NOTE: Sen. Sims (12th) left at 8:35 a.m.

Chairman Dixon (45th) called a recess at 8:36 a.m.

NOTE: Sen. Halpern (39th) left during the recess.

NOTE: Sen. Tate (38th) left during the recess.

NOTE: Sen. James (35th) left during the recess.

NOTE: Sen. Anavitarte (31st) left during the recess.

NOTE: Sen. Dolezal (27th) arrived at 9:20 a.m.

NOTE: Sen. Gooch (51st) arrived at 9:20 a.m.

NOTE: Sen. Echols (49th) arrived at 9:20 a.m.

Chairman Dixon (45th) called the meeting back to order at 9:20 a.m.

HB 87 (Rep. Erwin, 32nd, LC 49 1204S) Nontraditional Special Schools Act; enact

The Chair recognized Rep. Chris Erwin (32nd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Erwin (32nd) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair recognized Sen. Dolezal (27th) who made a motion that **HB 87 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 49 1449S)**. Sen. Still (48th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Committee Recommendation: HB 87 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 49 1449S)

HB 338 (Rep. Erwin, 32nd, LC 49 1352S) Student Technology Protection Act; enact

The Chair recognized Rep. Erwin (32nd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Erwin (32nd) 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:

Mr. Mike Griffin, Georgia Baptist Mission Board

Testimony in opposition to the bill:

Ms. Ruth Youn, Intercultural Development Research Association

NOTE: Sen. Echols (49th) left at 9:37 a.m.

NOTE: Sen. Hickman (4th) arrived at 9:37 a.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Gooch (51st) who made a motion that **HB 338 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 49 1434S)**. Sen. Dolezal (27th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Committee Recommendation: HB 338 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 49 1434S)

HB 538 (Rep. Ballard, 147th, LC 49 1410S) Georgia Early Literacy Act; enact

The Chair recognized Rep. Bethany Ballard (147th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Ballard (147th) presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Gooch (51st) left at 9:40 a.m.

NOTE: Sen. Gooch (51st) returned at 9:42 a.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Hickman (4th) who made a motion that **HB 538 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 49 1427S)**. Sen. Payne (54th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair indicated that Sen. Hickman (4th) would be the Senate Sponsor.

Committee Recommendation: HB 538 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 49 1427S)

HB 318 (Rep. Hilton, 48th, LC 49 1351S) Education; reestablishment of Office of Charter School Compliance under State Charter Schools Commission

The Chair recognized Rep. Scott Hilton (48th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Hilton (48th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair recognized Sen. Payne (54th) who made a motion that **HB 318 Do Pass (LC 49 1351S)**. Sen. Gooch (51st) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair indicated that Sen. Echols (49th) would be the Senate Sponsor.

Committee Recommendation: HB 318 DO PASS (LC 49 1351S)

Chairman Dixon (45th) adjourned the meeting at 9:48 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

Sen. Clint Dixon (45th), Chairman

/s/

Rachel Whitted, Recording Secretary



OFFICE OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

240 STATE CAPITOL
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334

BURT JONES
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

3/21, 2023

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

Secretary Cook,

The Committee on Assignments has delegated to the President of the Senate the authority, under Rule 2-3.2 of the Rules of the Georgia Senate, to temporarily appoint ex-officio members of standing committees without further action by the Committee on Assignments.

Pursuant to that authority, I hereby appoint Senator John Albers of the 56th District as an ex-officio member of the Education & Youth Committee for the committee meeting to be held on 3/21/2023. Such appointment shall expire upon the adjournment of the meeting.

The designated Senator shall count as a voting member of the Committee for purposes of determining whether a quorum is present at the meeting held on this date and may vote on any matter before the Committee.

Sincerely,

Lt. Governor Burt Jones
President of the Senate

CC: Senator Chant Dixon, Chairperson



OFFICE OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

240 STATE CAPITOL
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334

BURT JONES
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

3/21, 2023

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

Secretary Cook,

The Committee on Assignments has delegated to the President of the Senate the authority, under Rule 2-3.2 of the Rules of the Georgia Senate, to temporarily appoint ex-officio members of standing committees without further action by the Committee on Assignments.

Pursuant to that authority, I hereby appoint Senator Dasen Arantate of the 31st District as an ex-officio member of the Education/Youth Committee for the committee meeting to be held on 3/21/2023. Such appointment shall expire upon the adjournment of the meeting.

The designated Senator shall count as a voting member of the Committee for purposes of determining whether a quorum is present at the meeting held on this date and may vote on any matter before the Committee.

Sincerely,

Lt. Governor Burt Jones
President of the Senate

CC: Senator Clint Dixon, Chairperson



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240 STATE CAPITOL
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BURT JONES
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Mr. David Cook
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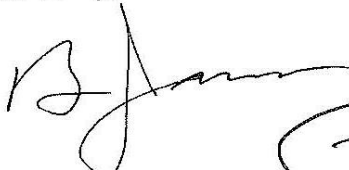

Secretary Cook,

The Committee on Assignments has delegated to the President of the Senate the authority, under Rule 2-3.2 of the Rules of the Georgia Senate, to temporarily appoint ex-officio members of standing committees without further action by the Committee on Assignments.

Pursuant to that authority, I hereby appoint Senator Billy Hebrum of the 4th District as an ex-officio member of the Senate Ed/Youth Committee for the committee meeting to be held on 3/21/2023. Such appointment shall expire upon the adjournment of the meeting.

The designated Senator shall count as a voting member of the Committee for purposes of determining whether a quorum is present at the meeting held on this date and may vote on any matter before the Committee.

Sincerely,

Lt. Governor Burt Jones
President of the Senate

CC: Senator Clint Dixon, Chairperson

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Education and Youth
Wednesday, August 23rd, 2023

The Senate Committee on Education and Youth met on Wednesday, August 23rd, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 450 of the State Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Clint Dixon (45th), Chairman
Sen. Chuck Payne (54th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary (*Left Early*)
Sen. Shelly Echols (49th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Sonya Halpern (39th)
Sen. Donzella James (35th)
Sen. Elena Parent (42nd) (*Arrived Late*) (*Left Early*)
Sen. Ed Setzler (37th)
Sen. Shawn Still (48th)

NOTE: Sen. Matt Brass (28th), Ex-Officio, Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th), Ex-Officio, Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Ex-Officio, and Sen. Horacena Tate (38th) were absent.

Chairman Dixon (45th) called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

[SB 88](#) (Sen. Summers, 13th, LC 33 9276) "**Parents and Children Protection Act of 2023**";
enact

The Chair recognized Sen. Carden Summers (13th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Summers (13th) presented the bill to the Committee alongside Mr. Tom Rawlings from Taylor English and Ms. Kate Hudson from Education Veritas.

The Chair indicated that SB 88 would receive a hearing only.

NOTE: Sen. Echols (49th) arrived at 10:05 a.m.

NOTE: Sen. Parent (42nd) arrived at 10:06 a.m.

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

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Sarah Higdon, Citizen

Testimony in opposition to the bill:

Brian Nunez, Southern Poverty Law Center Action Fund

Mel Kutner, Deep Center

Cindy Battles, The People's Agenda

Francesca Ruhe, Georgia Youth Justice Coalition

Jeff Graham, Georgia Equality

Kalie Hargrove, The Center for Prophetic Imagination

Brooke Rappoport, Citizen

Myah Dixon, Citizen
Nneka Ewulonu, American Civil Liberties Union of Georgia
Marjorie Pak, Parent
Aliza Barnett, Amplify Georgia Collaborative
Feroza Syed, Citizen
Christopher Skaer, Parent
Mason Goodwin, Georgia Youth Justice Coalition
Jordan Black, Parent
Joshua Hadley, Parent
Sydney Jemmott, Parent
Carole Maddux, Georgia Interfaith Public Policy Center
Cait Morigan, Upstate Clinic Defenders
Billy Hudgins, Citizen
Ana Villavasso, Georgia Youth Justice Coalition
Nilesh Chakraborty, Georgia Youth Justice Coalition
Kim Siders, Citizen
Taylor Hawkins, Frontline Policy Action
Mike Griffin, Georgia Baptist Mission Board
Kathy Fruh, Retired School Counselor
Rachel Ward, United Church of Christ

Testimony neutral to the bill:

Justin Pauly, Georgia School Boards Association

NOTE: Sen. Payne (54th) left at 11:00 a.m.

NOTE: Sen. Payne (54th) returned at 11:03 a.m.

NOTE: Sen. Parent (42nd) left at 11:33 a.m.

NOTE: Sen. Sims (12th) left at 12:07 p.m.

Committee Recommendation: SB 88 (LC 33 9276) No Action Taken

Chairman Dixon (45th) adjourned the meeting at 12:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary

/s/

Rachel Whitted, Recording Secretary