



This Week in the Senate

March 18 – March 22, 2013

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A Message from Senate President Pro Tempore David Shafer

“Several important pieces of legislation passed the Senate in the week leading up to Sine Die, including an historic ethics proposal enacting sweeping new limits on lobbyist spending and closing a myriad of loopholes. I am proud of the Senate’s bold action and look forward to working with the House to put these proposals into law.

“The Senate also spent a tremendous amount of time reviewing the FY 2014 budget and passed a juvenile justice bill that will modernize existing code and create a more efficient system for rehabilitation.

“Although we are just days away from the end of the legislative session, there are still many bills that need to be addressed in the Senate. I am grateful for the hard work of the many interns, aides and staff who help us do our jobs.”

– Senate President Pro Tem David Shafer

House Bills

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20

Discretionary Group Life Insurance

HB 103, carried in the Senate by Sen. Tim Golden (R-Valdosta), passed the Senate by a vote of 46-6. Under this legislation, discretionary group life insurance coverage would receive authorization for establishment and requirements that group plans that can only be issued if at least 75 percent of the group’s members choose to participate would be repealed. –**HB 103**

Sales and Use Tax for Maintenance or Repair of Aircraft

A bill to provide an extension for sales tax exemption for aircraft parts passed the Senate by a vote of 39-12. Aircraft parts used specifically in maintenance or repair receive this exemption. Estimated revenue loss through 2016 is estimated at \$16.1 million in State and \$11.9 million in local taxes. HB 164 was carried by Sen. Tim Golden (R-Valdosta). –**HB 164**

Sale of Tobacco Related Objects to Minors

Legislation to add the term ‘cigar wraps’ to a defined list of ‘tobacco related objects’ that cannot be possessed by minors passed the Senate by a vote of 44-6. Sen. Mike Dugan (R-Carrollton) carried the legislation—his first bill in the Senate. Currently, ‘cigar wraps’ is not included in the list of definitions relating to the sale or possession of tobacco related products to minors under the Georgia Code. ‘Cigar wraps’ are defined as individual wrappers that are made of reconstituted tobacco leaf. –**HB 256**

Background Check Requirements for Childcare Center Personnel

A bill requiring all childcare center directors and employees, as well as all Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) employees, to pass a national fingerprint records check every five years passed the Senate by a vote of 44-4. Under current law, the director of a childcare center licensed by DECAL must pass a national fingerprint records

background check. All other employees are only required to pass a name-based search of Georgia records. HB 350 was carried in the Senate by Sen. Butch Miller (R-Gainesville). –**HB 350**

Motor Fuel Excise Tax on Liquefied Natural Gas

Sen. Hunter Hill (R-Smyrna) carried HB 371. This legislation amends existing law regarding the motor fuel excise tax regarding liquefied natural gas (LNG). A gallon equivalent of LNG will not be less than 6.06 pounds, and is further defined as methane or natural gas in cryogenic or refrigerated liquid form. HB 371 passed the Senate by a vote of 46-4.

THURSDAY, MARCH 21

Continuing Education Requirements for Licensed Orthotists and Prosthetists

A bill to revise continuing education requirements for licensed orthotists and prosthetists passed the Senate by a vote of 47-0. HB 68 puts Georgia in line with national standards and authorizes the Georgia Composite Medical Board to establish the number of required continuing education hours and the categories in which the hours should be earned. HB 68 was carried in the Senate by Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (R-Rome). –**HB 68**

Discretion Allowed for Discount Rate on Calculation of Present Value of Future Damages

HB 94, carried by Sen. Joshua McKoon (R-Columbus) passed the Senate by a vote of 47-1. Current law allows only a five percent discount rate when determining the present value of future damages. HB 94 would allow either a five percent discount rate or any other discount rate deemed appropriate. –**HB 94**

House Bill Prohibits Individuals from Obstructing Duties of Park Rangers

The Georgia State Senate passed House Bill 126 by a vote of 46-2. Carried in the Senate by Sen. Renee Unterman (R-Buford), this legislation prohibits individuals from obstructing the duties of Georgia Park Rangers. An individual who knowingly or willfully hinders a Georgia Park Ranger from fulfilling their duties will be guilty of a misdemeanor. If a violent act is committed against a park ranger, the individual will be guilty of a felony. If convicted, the individual may face imprisonment for up to five years. –**HB 126**

Help for Human Trafficking Victims

House Bill 141 requires certain establishments to post information on how trafficking victims can receive help from the National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC). Sen. Renee Unterman (R-Buford) carried HB 141 to passage by a vote of 47-1. Funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the NHTRC provides victim advocates with up-to-date resources and provides law enforcement, social service providers and community members with the tools needed to facilitate victim identification. Notices must be posted in English, Spanish and other appropriate languages in establishments that are known or suspected to be frequented by human trafficking victims. –**HB 141**

Provisions for Issuance of Warrants by Video Conference

HB 146 clarifies that a warrant issued by video conference is valid no matter where the issuing judge was physically located at the time of the video conference, as long as the judge was located within Georgia. Current legislation already provides for the issuance of warrants via video conference. HB 146 was carried in the Senate by Sen. John Crosby (R-Tifton) and passed the Senate by a vote of 45-0. –**HB 146**

Shooting Preserves Legislation Revised

HB 155 deals with hunting preserves and how licenses are sold. Under current legislation, groups hunting on specified reserves purchase a group license. HB 155 requires each person to have his or her own license, and requires similar provisions for fishing licenses. This change offers a potential increase of \$1.7 million in funds that would go back into Georgia's wildlife fund. HB 155 was carried by Sen. Ross Tolleson (R-Perry) and passed the Senate by a vote of 42-4. –**HB 155**

Fulton County Commission Districts

Sen. John Albers (R-Roswell) carried HB 171, which changes the current commission district lines for the Fulton County Board of Commissioners. The bill passed by a vote of 31-11. This bill would increase the number of district commission seats and eliminate the second at-large seat that currently exists. This bill changes the distribution and layout of the current geographic commission districts. It also establishes staggered terms for Fulton County Commissioners. For a map of the County Commission districts, [click here](#). –**HB 171**

Georgia Pain Management Clinic Act

HB 178 passed the Senate by a vote of 44-5. Carried by Sen. Renee Unterman (R-Buford), this legislation requires pain management clinics to be licensed by the Georgia Composite Medical Board. Georgia Pain Management Clinics must be operated by a licensed physician and meet certain requirements for prescribing medicine and pain management services. If passed into law, this legislation will go into effect on July 1, 2013 and require clinics to renew their license every two years. This legislation also enables the Georgia Composite Medical Board to establish its own set of standards for continuing medical education and training. **–HB 178**

Revisions for Optometry

Carried by Sen. Butch Miller (R-Gainesville), HB 235 passed the Senate by a vote of 47-1. This legislation adds hydrocodone to the list of pharmaceutical agents optometrists may use for treatments. It also removes an exemption for continuing education requirements for optometrists who are 65 years of age or older. **–HB 235**

Significant Reforms to Juvenile Justice Code

Sen. Charlie Bethel (R-Dalton) sponsored HB 242, a landmark juvenile justice reform bill that calls for substantial changes in the state's juvenile court proceedings. Based on recommendations and years of work by the Governor's Special Council on Justice Reform, the legislation calls for well-defined articles outlining a juvenile's right to procedural due process, family preservation and proper representation based on the specific reason for juvenile court intervention. HB 242 passed the Senate by a vote of 47-0. **–HB 242**

Agricultural Product and Grain Dealers License and Bond Requirements

HB 268, carried by Sen. Dean Burke (R-Bainbridge), passed the Senate by a vote of 46-3. Among other things, this legislation removes eggs and cotton from the definition of agricultural products, increases the maximum surety bond amount for grain dealers, and repeals laws related to the registration of pecan dealers and processors. **–HB 268**

Division of Archives and History

Sen. Rick Jeffares (R-McDonough) carried HB 287, a bill transferring oversight of the Division of Archives and History from the Secretary of State to the University System of Georgia. This legislation also renames the Georgia Historical Records Advisory Board as the Georgia Historical Records Advisory Council. HB 287 passed the Senate by a vote of 46-0. **–HB 287**

Administrative Medical Licenses and Educational Certificates

A bill allowing the Georgia Composite Medical Board to issue educational certificates to out-of-state physicians passed the Senate by a vote of 51-0. Practitioners seeking an administrative medicine license must meet all of the requirements under Georgia law for the issuance of a medical license. HB 317 was carried by Sen. Dean Burke (R-Bainbridge), and was his first bill in the Senate. **–HB 317**

'Teacher' Defined for TRS

HB 345 clarifies and consolidates the definition of 'teacher' as it relates to membership in the Teachers' Retirement System (TRS). Language in the current legislation has confused employers in the past. HB 345 does not change eligibility for membership in TRS. Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (D-Dawson) carried this legislation, which passed the Senate by a vote of 45-0. **–HB 345**

Fulton County Elections Board

Sen. Judson Hill (R-Marietta) carried HB 347 to revise the appointment process for Fulton County Board of Elections and Registration. Under this legislation, state legislators would appoint the chair of the county elections board. The State senate passed HB 347 by a vote of 31-13. **–HB 347**

Criminal Justice Cleanup

Sen. Charlie Bethel (R-Dalton) carried HB 349, a clean-up bill to 2012's criminal justice reform package. The bill revises the Court of Appeals process, offers new sentencing guidelines for drug trafficking crimes, establishes and assigns oversight to the Georgia Council on Criminal Justice Reform, and permits drug and mental health judges to make decisions regarding the status of the defendant's driver's license. HB 349 passed the Senate by a vote of 46-1. **–HB 349**

Fulton County Chief Judge Appointment and Future Elections

The Georgia State Senate approved a measure to authorize the Governor to appoint the first Chief Judge successor for Fulton County's Magistrate Court and future successors to be elected in non-partisan elections. Fulton County is the only county that has an appointed (not elected) Chief Judge. HB 443 passed by a vote of 29-12. **–HB 443**

Multiyear Leases, Purchase, and Lease-Purchase Contracts

Under current law, counties and municipalities are authorized to enter into multiyear lease, purchase or lease-purchase contracts based on the calendar year. HB 473 gives the option to base these contracts on the local government's fiscal year. HB 473 passed the Senate by a vote of 48-0 and was carried in the Senate by Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (R-Rome). **–HB 473**

FRIDAY, MARCH 22

FY 2014 General Appropriations Budget

Sen. Jack Hill (R – Reidsville) presented the Senate's changes to HB 106, the Fiscal Year 2014 budget. Because the Senate version is different from the House version, particularly in key areas such as education, Medicaid, public health, and state departments and infrastructure, a conference committee will be appointed to negotiate a final version of the bill. HB 106 passed the Senate by a vote of 51-0. **–HB 106**

Records Regarding Sexual Offenders Made Available to the Sexual Offender Registration Review Board

Sen. Don Balfour (R-Snellville) carried HB 122, which authorizes the Sexual Offender Registration Review Board to gather information from supervision records of the Board of Pardons and Paroles regarding a sexual offender in order to classify the sexual offender under Level I risk, Level II risk, or as a sexually dangerous predator. The records will be classified as confidential state secrets and will not be made available to any person or group, and will not be subject to subpoena. HB 122 passed the Senate by a vote of 42-6. **–HB 122**

Dual Credit Courses & HOPE Eligibility Bill Passes Senate

HB 131, carried by Sen. Renee Unterman (R-Buford), passed the Senate by a vote of 44-5. This clarifies dual credit courses will be treated in the same manner as advanced placement and international baccalaureate courses for the purposes of determining eligibility for the HOPE scholarship. **–HB 131**

Ethics Reform

The Senate voted on a historic ethics proposal that builds on the \$100 gift cap resolution passed by our chamber in January. The Senate substitute to HB 142 allows individual bodies to set their own ethics policy that falls within certain requirements, eliminates loopholes for special groups and protects citizens who are expressing their constitutionally protected views from burdensome registration and reporting requirements. Any entity that fails to set an individual ethics policy will automatically have a gift cap limit of \$0. HB 142 passed the Senate by a vote of 52-0 and will be transmitted back to the House for approval of the Senate substitute. **–HB 142**

Covenants and Land Use

This bill provides that a covenant (agreement) may impose restrictions on land use when a property owner and a third party approves an agreement that does not last for more than 20 years, is exchanged for consideration, and is recorded in the chain of title with an adequate description. HB 175 was carried by Sen. Josh McKoon (R-Columbus) and passed the Senate by a vote of 47-0. **–HB 175**

Venue for Actions Against Gas Companies

HB 194, carried by Sen. Charlie Bethel (R-Dalton), specifies the appropriate venue for legal actions against gas companies in Georgia. This bill passed the Senate by a vote of 45-0. **–HB 194**

Conservation Use Covenants

Sen. Ross Tolleson (R-Perry) carried HB 197, which passed the Senate by a vote of 44-6. HB 197 amends existing language governing Conservation Use covenants under the Georgia Forest Land Protection Act of 2008. New language requires the GDOR Commissioner to appoint an independent performance review board if the local tax digest suggests evidence that appraisal techniques are state law compliance are questionable—**HB 197**

Pharmacist Regulation and Permits

HB 209 makes various revisions to Georgia pharmacy law. The bill allows any prescription pad or paper approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to qualify as security paper. It also allows out-of-state practitioners to obtain a non-resident pharmacy permit. HB 209 was carried by Sen. Dean Burke (R-Bainbridge) and passed the Senate by a vote of 49-0. –**HB 209**

Georgia Tourism Development Act

Sen. Charlie Bethel (R-Dalton) carried HB 318, which provides for several tax exemptions related to tourism and seed capital. HB 318 provides a sales tax exemption for Zoo Atlanta, amends the existing tourism act by changing definitions specifically limiting one approved company per tourism attraction project, and establishes the Invest Georgia Fund within Georgia Tech's Advanced Technology Development Center. HB 318 passed the Senate by a vote of 42-4. –**HB 318**

Requirements of an Offer to Settle a Tort Claim Bill Passes Senate

This bill requires that a party who offers to settle a tort claim for personal injury, bodily injury, or death prior to filing a civil action must put the offer in writing. This documentation must include: a time period of at least 30 days to accept, the amount of monetary payment, the parties and claims to be released and the type of release. HB 336 was carried by Sen. Charlie Bethel (R – Dalton) and passed by a vote of 47-0. –**HB 336**

Funds from Unclaimed Property in Georgia

This legislation requires the GDOR Commissioner to deposit funds from unclaimed property into the general treasury. Requirements that the Commissioner maintain a separate trust fund are deleted, as is language regarding retention by GDOR of certain collection fees. HB 359 passed the Senate by a vote of 49-1 and was carried by Sen. Charlie Bethel (R-Dalton). –**HB 359**

Revisions to HOPE Grant Eligibility Requirements for Students at Technical Schools

The Senate passed HB 372 by a vote of 48-0. This bill revises HOPE grant eligibility requirements by lowering the grade point eligibility requirements for the HOPE grant from 3.0 to 2.0 for students attending seeking a diploma or certificate at a technical school or technical department of the University System. The bill was carried by Sen. Charlie Bethel (R – Dalton). –**HB 372**

Motorized Cart Safety Signage

Sen. Tyler Harper (R-Ocilla) carried HB 384, which passed the Senate by a vote of 47-0. HB 384 requires local governments permitting the operation of motorized carts to post signs at the point of intersection with every highway within its boundaries. –**HB 384**

Responsibilities of the Department of Natural Resources Expanded

HB 402, carried in the Senate by Sen. Ross Tolleson (R-Perry) passed the Senate by a vote of 44-0. HB 402 expands the responsibilities of the Department of Natural Resources in the areas of shore protection and coastal marshlands and shoreline construction and coastal marshland permits. –**HB 402**

House Resolutions

THURSDAY, MARCH 21

State Institutions and Property

Sen. Rick Jeffares (R-McDonough) carried HR 205, which authorizes the transfer of ownership of certain state owned real property in 22 Georgia counties. HR 205 passed the Senate by a vote of 45-0. –**HR 205**

Senate Resolutions

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20

Dr. Archie Rainey Honored

Sens. Jack Hill (R-Reidsville), Buddy Carter (R-Pooler), Josh McKoon (R-Columbus) and Ed Harbison (D-Columbus) honored Dr. Archie Rainey in the State Senate. Rainey is the director of Georgia's Law Enforcement Command College at Columbus State University and has been recognized with a Meritorious Service Award from the Peace Officers' Association of Georgia. —**SR 425**

Deputy Jason Michael Ross Honored

Deputy Jason Michael Ross of the Coweta County Sheriff's Department was honored by Sens. Jack Hill (R-Reidsville), Buddy Carter (R-Pooler) and Mike Crane (R-Newnan). Deputy Ross was presented with the Valor Service Award from the Peace Officers Association of Georgia for his swiftness and bravery when arriving on the scene where a head-on collision. Deputy Ross took action by extinguishing the flames then freeing the driver, all the while speaking to her in calm, reassuring tones even as he himself suffered burns on his face and arms. —**SR 426**

Habitat for Humanity Day

Sen. Cecil Staton (R-Macon), Sen. Pro Tem David Shafer (R-Duluth), Sen. Buddy Carter (R-Pooler), Sen. Ronnie Chance (R-Tyrone), Sen. John Crosby (R-Tifton) and Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (D-Dawson) welcomed members of Habitat for Humanity to the State Capitol for "Habitat for Humanity Day." Habitat for Humanity is a global nonprofit Christian housing organization that seeks to put God's love into action by bringing people together to build homes, communities and hope. Since its founding in Americus, Georgia in 1976, Habitat for Humanity has served more than 600,000 families worldwide. —**SR 512**

Ft. Oglethorpe Recreation Association Lakeview Warriors Welcomed

The Ft. Oglethorpe Recreation Association Lakeview Warriors baseball team was the special guest of Sen. Jeff Mullis (R-Chickamauga). The Lakeview Warriors won 55 out of their 63 games in their 2012 season and won several championships, including the 12-Year-Old Grand Slam World Series, the 11-Year-Old Rick Honeycutt World Series, and the 11-Year-Old Baseball Players Association Tennessee State Championship. —**SR 532**

Change 4 Georgia Founder Remington Youngblood Honored

Fifth grade student Remington Youngblood, founder of the nonprofit organization Change 4 Georgia, was the special guest of Sen. Jack Murphy (R-Cumming) and Sen. Steve Gooch (R-Dahlonega). Change 4 Georgia is a community service program that provides students with opportunities to thank soldiers for their service, dedication and sacrifice. Change 4 Georgia benefits our troops by collecting items from their "Wish List." Most of these are items that are not readily available or provided, but add comfort and fit in a soldier's backpack. The program also benefits the children of active military by providing backpacks and school supplies to those who need assistance. —**SR 546**

Trion High School Varsity Cheerleading Team Congratulated

Members of the Trion High School Competition Cheerleading Team were congratulated by Sen. Jeff Mullis (R-Chickamauga) and Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (R-Rome). The Trion High School competition cheerleading team won the 2012 GHSA Class A Public Cheerleading Championship. The team has won five state championships in the last six years along with four region championships. —**SR 556**

Gainesville High School Girls Golf Team Honored

Sen. Butch Miller (R-Gainesville) welcomed members of the Gainesville High School girls' golf team to the State Senate. The team won the 2012 Class AAA State Championship. —**SR 566**

Gainesville High School Golf Team Honored

Sen. Butch Miller (R-Gainesville) welcomed members of the Gainesville High School boys' golf team to the State Senate. The team won the 2012 Class AAA State Championship. —**SR 567**

Gainesville High School Red Elephants Football Team Honored

Sen. Butch Miller (R-Gainesville) welcomed members of the Gainesville High School Red Elephants football team to the State Senate. The team won the 2012 Class AAAAA State Championship. **–SR 568**

Wilkinson High School Boys Basketball Team Congratulated

Sen. David Lucas (D-Macon) congratulated members of the Wilkinson High School boys' basketball team on their 2013 GHSA Class A State Championship win. 2013 marks the fifth GHSA Class A State Championship victory for this team. **–SR 588**

THURSDAY, MARCH 21

Buckhead Coalition Commended

Sen. Hunter Hill (R-Smyrna) commended Sam Massell and the Buckhead Coalition for their 25th anniversary. Sam Massell is the former mayor of Atlanta and current president of the Buckhead Coalition, whose mission is to nurture the quality of life of those who live, visit, work and play within Buckhead's 28 square miles. **–SR 258**

Roberto Roy Commended

Sen. Jeff Mullis (R-Chickamauga), Sen. President Pro Tem David Shafer (R-Duluth), Sen. Majority Leader Ronnie Chance (R-Tyrone), Sen. Butch Miller (R-Gainesville), Sen. Frank Ginn (R-Danielsville), and Sen. Steve Gooch (R-Dahlonega) welcomed Roberto Roy, Minister of the Panama Canal, to the Senate Chamber. Roy addressed the Senate and asked them to support the dredging of the Savannah port. Roy told the Senate that the Panama Canal has lost business because they haven't finished expanding the canal and that he doesn't want to see Georgia face a similar challenge. **–SR 344**

Clayton County Black Ministers Fellowship Recognized

Sens. Gail Davenport (D-Jonesboro), Valencia Seay (D-Riverdale), Donzella James (D-Atlanta), Vincent Fort (D-Atlanta) and Emanuel Jones (D-Decatur) recognized members of the Clayton County Black Ministers Fellowship. The Clayton County Black Ministers Fellowship was formed as a religious committee of the Concerned Black Citizens Coalition of Clayton County 28 years ago. The organization has made significant contributions to its community by holding community and political forums, co-sponsoring youth summits, and assisting in the annual Clayton County Prayer Breakfast and Ecumenical Service in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The group also assists students in furthering their education at institutions of higher learning by awarding \$1,000 in scholarships annually to deserving students. **–SR 455**

Gordon Lee High School Girls Basketball Team Recognized

Sen. Jeff Mullis (R-Chickamauga) recognized members of the Gordon Lee High School Lady Trojans basketball team. The Lady Trojans won the 2012 Georgia High School Association Class A Public State Championship. **–SR 557**

Dr. Carol Terry Welcomed

Sens. Gloria Butler (D-Stone Mountain), Renee Unterman (R-Buford), Don Balfour (R-Snellville), Curt Thompson (D-Tucker) and Steve Henson (D-Tucker) welcomed Gwinnett County coroner Dr. Carol Terry to the State Capitol. Dr. Carol Terry was named the 2012 Coroner/Medical Examiner of the Year. **–SR 558**

Miller Grove High School Basketball Team Congratulated

Sen. Ronald Ramsey (D-Decatur) congratulated members of the Miller Grove High School varsity boys basketball team on winning their fifth consecutive state championship. For the fifth time in their nine-year history, the Miller Grove High School varsity boys' basketball team earned the top ranking in the state. **–SR 565**

FRIDAY, MARCH 22

Ahavath Achim Synagogue Welcomed

Sen. Hunter Hill (R-Smyrna) welcomed representatives of the Ahavath Achim Synagogue to the Senate Chamber in celebration of its 125th anniversary. The Ahavath Achim Synagogue of Atlanta was organized in 1887. The Synagogue has grown from a small room on Gilmer Street in Atlanta to one of the largest Conservative Jewish congregations in North America. **–SR 264**

White County High School WTVN Broadcast Team Congratulated

Sens. Steve Gooch (R-Dahlonega), Butch Miller (R-Gainesville), Jeff Mullis (R-Chickamauga) and John Wilkinson (R-Toccoa) congratulated members of the White County High School WTVN broadcast team for their first place win at the 2013 Student Television National Convention. The students of WTVN Warrior TV have produced, filmed and anchored numerous football, basketball, baseball and softball games for White County High School as well as traveling to other schools to film. They have also produced and narrated parades and covered numerous political events in White County and Cleveland. –**SR 562**

Arthur Blank and Atlanta Falcons Welcomed

Sen. Jeff Mullis (R-Chickamauga), Sen. Steve Gooch (R-Dahlonega), Sen. Majority Leader Ronnie Chance (R-Tyrone), Sen. Cecil Staton (R-Macon), Sen. Butch Miller (R-Gainesville) and Sen. President Pro Tem David Shafer (R-Duluth) welcomed Arthur Blank and members of the Atlanta Falcons football team to the Senate Chamber. In their 45 years of existence, the Falcons have compiled a record of 300-402-6 with division championships in 1980, 1998, 2004, 2010, and 2012. In the 2012-2013 season, the Atlanta Falcons clinched the NFC South, losing only three games, garnering the top seed in the NFL playoffs, and sending three players to the NFL Pro Bowl. –**SR 599**

Georgia Military Veterans Hall of Fame Commended

Sens. Ed Harbison (D-Columbus), Mike Dugan (R-Carrollton), Barry Loudermilk (R-Cassville), Hunter Hill (R-Smyrna) and Gail Davenport (D-Jonesboro) commended the Georgia Military Veterans Hall of Fame. Colonel Paul Richard Longgear, Captain Clifford Paul Barnes, Colonel Richard H. White, Sergeant Harry Howard Gregory IV, and Specialist Richard Lee Schooley were named specifically. The purpose of the Georgia Military Veterans Hall of Fame, a nonprofit organization organized under the laws of the State of Georgia, is to highlight and emphasize the honor brought to Georgia and the nation by the sacrifice of veterans and their families. –**SR 616**

Bob Ewing and Jeffrey Foley Congratulated on Upcoming Retirement

Secretary of the Senate Bob Ewing and Deputy Secretary of the Senate Jeffrey Foley were honored with SR 651 and SR 650, respectively, for their many years of loyal service to the Georgia State Senate. Ewing is retiring from his duties after 34 years, while Foley is retiring after 30 years. Current and former senators and staff filled the Senate chamber to wish both of them congratulations. The resolution was sponsored by Sen. President Pro Tempore David Shafer (R-Duluth), Sen. Majority Leader Ronnie Chance (R-Tyrone) and several other Senate leaders. –**SR 651 and SR 650**

Guests and Events

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20

Lt. Governor Casey Cagle Presents Green Ribbon School Awards

Lt. Governor Casey Cagle presented Green Ribbon School Awards to Georgia's 2013 winners in the Senate Chamber. In order to be selected for this honor, schools must demonstrate substantial progress in three qualifying areas: optimal emergency efficiency in energy, water, and waste management; healthy students and school environment; and environmental education.

2013 Winners:

Green Ribbon School –Ford Elementary in Cobb County
Green Ribbon District winner–Gwinnet County Schools

2013 Honorable Mentions:

Small District–Stephens County Schools
Medium District–Cherokee County Schools
High Meadows School in Fulton County
Rabun County Elementary School
River Ridge Elementary School

Ford Elementary and Gwinnett County Schools will now compete in the U.S. Department of Education's National Green Ribbon School and School District program, where they will have the chance to win up to \$10,000 pledged by the Turner Foundation.

Don Waters Visits Senate

Don L. Waters, Georgia's newest Board of Regents member, was sworn in on Wednesday and visited the Senate later that morning. Sen. Buddy Carter (R-Pooler) and Lester Jackson (D-Savannah) hosted Waters, a Savannah native and Chairman, President and CEO of Brasseler USA Inc., an international manufacturer of dental and medical surgical instrumentation.

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