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This Week in the Senate

February 2 - 6, 2015



A Message from Senate President Pro Tempore David Shafer

This week, the Senate passed a bill that will allow hardworking high school students to pursue more advanced education and career objectives at an earlier pace. Senate Bill 2 will help students better prepare to enter a competitive job market, as well as reinforce the message to companies looking to move to Georgia that we have skilled and capable employees for hire.

Subcommittees of the Senate Appropriations Committee held meetings throughout the week to carefully review House Bill 75, the Fiscal Year 2015 amended budget, down to the last line item. Senate Leadership received subcommittee reports Thursday at its "green door" meeting. The bill will be presented to the Senate Appropriations Committee on Monday, and it is anticipated the full Senate will vote on the bill later next week.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2

University of West Georgia Day

Senate Resolution 86, sponsored by Sens. Mike Dugan (R - Carrollton) and Mike Crane (R - Newnan) recognized February 2, 2015, as University of West Georgia Day at the Georgia State Capitol and commended the university for their continued growth and economic impact. University president Dr. Kyle Marrero addressed the Senate and was joined by the university's official mascot, Wolfe. - **SR 86**

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3

Postsecondary High School Diploma Bill Passes Unanimously

Senate Bill 2, sponsored by Sens. Lindsey Tippins (R - Marietta), Freddie Powell Sims (D - Dawson), Bill Cowsert (R - Athens), John Wilkinson (R - Toccoa), Fran Millar (R - Atlanta) and John Albers (R - Roswell), passed the Senate with unanimous support. SB 2 will authorize local boards of education to award a high school diploma to a student that completes certain requirements relating to postsecondary coursework. The Technical College System of Georgia will work with the State Board of Education to perform an annual evaluation of workforce shortages, and create training programs in those specific areas. - **SB 2**

Georgia Southern University Day

Sens. Jack Hill (R - Reidsville), David Shafer (R - Duluth), Bill Cowsert (R - Athens), Fran Millar (R - Atlanta), Tommie Williams (R - Lyons) and Frank Ginn (R - Danielsville) sponsored Senate Resolution 118, recognizing February 3, 2015, as Georgia Southern University Day at the Capitol. University president Dr. Brooks Keel addressed the Senate and congratulated Georgia Southern's football team on winning the 2014 Sun Belt Championship. - **SR 118**

Equine Youth Day

Sens. John Wilkinson (R - Toccoa), Tyler Harper (R - Ocilla), Ellis Black (R - Valdosta), and Butch Miller (R - Gainesville) sponsored Senate Resolution 89, recognizing February 3, 2015, as Equine Youth Day at the Capitol. SR 89 also commended several young equestrians from Georgia for reaching the highest level of distinction in regional, national, and world level equestrians competitions. - **SR 89**



Sen. Butch Miller Recognizes Judge Cliff Jolliff

Sen. Butch Miller (R - Gainesville) sponsored Senate Resolution 128 commending Judge Cliff Jolliff on his outstanding public service. Judge Jolliff faithfully served the Hall County Juvenile Court System from 1992 to 2014. He is specifically recognized for his leadership and commitment to the children and families of Hall County. - **SR 128**



Georgia Piedmont Technical College Day

Sens. Ronald Ramsey (D - Lithonia), Gloria Butler (D - Stone Mountain), and Emanuel Jones (D - Decatur) sponsored Senate Resolution 124, commending Georgia Piedmont Technical College and recognizing February 3, 2015, as Georgia Piedmont Technical College Day at the Capitol. Georgia Piedmont Technical College has served the citizens of DeKalb, Rockdale, Newton, and Morgan counties for over 53 years by training over 150 Georgians to serve in over 42 different law enforcement agencies throughout the state. - **SR 124**



Sen. Ellis Black Recognizes Echols County Drama Club

Sen. Ellis Black (R - Valdosta), sponsored Senate Resolution 112, commending the Echols County Drama Club for winning the Georgia High School Association Area 2A One-Act Play Competition on October 20, 2014. The group captivated the audience and judges alike with its musical production of *Perseus Bayou: The Search for the Cajun Medusa*. - **SR 112**



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4

State of the Judiciary Address

The Honorable Chief Justice Hugh P. Thompson of the Supreme Court of Georgia delivered his annual State of the Judiciary Address to inform the joint session of the current status of our judicial system, along with challenges and opportunities the system may face. He highlighted the lack of accessibility to legal services in Georgia, especially among poor and rural populations. Chief Justice Thompson stressed the importance of preparation for Georgia's population growth and the General Assembly's support in providing more resources to probate court judges and staff.



Veterinary Medicine Day

Sens. John Wilkinson (R - Toccoa), Tyler Harper (R - Ocilla), Ellis Black (R - Valdosta) and Butch Miller (R - Gainesville) sponsored Senate Resolution 90, recognizing February 4, 2015, as Veterinary Medicine Day at the Capitol. SR 90 also commends veterinary medicine professionals for their contributions to improve the health and welfare of Georgia's animals. - **SR 90**



Local Entertainment Producer Recognized

Sens. Valencia Seay (D - Riverdale), Donzella James (D - Atlanta), Michael Rhett (D - Marietta), Gloria Butler (D - Stone Mountain), Steve Henson (D - Tucker) and Freddie Powell Sims (D - Dawson) sponsored Senate Resolution 37, commending Atlanta television and music producer Satchel B. Jester. Jester has been in the entertainment industry for 15 years and has worked with talents such as Outkast, Sean “P. Diddy” Combs, the Wayans Family and the late Whitney Houston. He will now serve as executive producer on a lifestyle makeover show debuting later this year.

-SR 37



American Heart Association's Go Red Campaign

Sens. Renee Unterman (R - Buford), Valencia Seay (D - Riverdale), Nan Orrock (D - Atlanta), Gail Davenport (D - Jonesboro), Gloria Butler (D - Stone Mountain) and Horacena Tate (D - Atlanta) sponsored Senate Resolution 115, recognizing the American Heart Association's “Go Red for Women” movement. In celebration of the 12th National Wear Red Day on February 6, 2015, “Go Red for Women” is strongly urging all women across America to wear red and raise awareness for women's heart health. - SR 115



Georgia State University Day

Sens. Lindsey Tippins (R - Marietta), Fran Millar (R - Atlanta), John Wilkinson (R - Toccoa), Hunter Hill (R - Atlanta), Renee Unterman (R - Buford) and Freddie Powell Sims (D - Dawson) sponsored Senate Resolution 103, commending Georgia State University on their accomplishments and recognizing February 4, 2015, as Georgia State University Day at the Capitol. Legislators welcomed Georgia State University president Dr. Mark Becker, as well as students, faculty and alumni to the Capitol. - SR 103



Prostate Cancer Awareness Day

Sens. Bill Cowser (R - Athens), Steve Henson (D - Tucker), Renee Unterman (R - Buford), Charlie Bethel (R - Dalton), Dean Burke (R - Bainbridge) and Ben Watson (R - Savannah) sponsored Senate Resolution 117, commending Kurt Gelfand and recognizing February 4, 2015, as Prostate Cancer Awareness Day at the State Capitol. Kurt Gelfand, a prostate cancer survivor, started an awareness campaign called “Save Our Dads” to raise awareness and support for the disease. - SR 117



**The Georgia State Senate will reconvene for DAY 12
on Monday, February 9, at 11:00 a.m.**



The Senate Press Office wishes

Emily Williams

the best of luck on her new career adventure!

We will miss you!