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This Week in the Senate

January 22-25, 2018



Committee Work Begins

The Senate reconvened on Monday, January 22 and met for four days this week.

The first 10 legislative days of the 2018 session have come and gone, meaning that a fourth of our time to introduce, vet and pass legislation has passed. This week has been busy with committees working to vet legislation and the Senate passing two bills on the floor. I expect we will continue to pick up the pace in the coming weeks as we move closer to Crossover Day and *Sine Die*, both of which have been officially scheduled in the adjournment resolution introduced this week.

Under the new adjournment resolution, we will reconvene on Monday, January 29 for Day 11. Day 28, Crossover Day, will be Wednesday, February 28 and Day 40, when we adjourn *Sine Die*, will be Thursday, March 29.

We welcomed several special guests to the Senate, including Josh Reddick, World Series champion with the Houston Astros. We were also lucky enough to be joined by many members of the Georgia National Guard as we celebrated National Guard Day at the Capitol. It's always great to be able to recognize and honor the men and women who give so much of their time and talents to preserve our freedom. The Senate also recognized members of the DeKalb Fire and Rescue Department who put their lives on the line to save citizens of Georgia each and every day. It is always humbling to have such special guests in the chamber.

Senator Butch Miller
President Pro Tempore, Georgia Senate

MONDAY, JANUARY 22



Recognizing Houston Astros Player Josh Reddick

Sen. Jack Hill (R – Reidsville) sponsored Senate Resolution 596 recognizing Josh Reddick for his part in the Houston Astros World Series Championship. Reddick played baseball for South Effingham High School and Middle Georgia College before being drafted to the MLB during the 17th

round in 2006. In February 2014, Reddick established the Josh Reddick Foundation, which is local to Effingham County and advocates for youth and those who are in need at home. Most recently, the foundation gave \$1 million to build a handicap accessible field at the new Effingham Recreation Park. - **SR 596**

TUESDAY, JANUARY 23

Updating Garnishment Procedures

Senate Bill 194, sponsored by Sen. Jesse Stone (R – Waynesboro), relates to garnishment proceedings. The bill would increase the maximum level of disposable earnings that are subject to garnishment, minimizes confusion regarding where legal documents are to be sent and alters the provisions for introducing evidence in cases where a third party is involved. SB 194 passed by a vote of 49-0. - **SB 194**

Honoring the Republic of Korea on Upcoming 2018 Olympic and Paralympic Games

Sen. P.K. Martin IV (R – Lawrenceville) sponsored Senate Resolution 589 recognizing and congratulating the Republic of Korea on hosting the 2018 Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games. This year, athletes from 94 countries will be competing in more than 100 events in PyeongChang, South Korea. The Senate welcomed several distinguished guests, including the Consul General, Young-jun Kim, Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in Atlanta. SR 589 also recognizes the close relation between our two democratic nations and wishes the Republic of Korea the best in hosting the upcoming games. - **SR 589**



WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24

Senate Celebrates Spectrum Autism Support Group

Senate Resolution 597, sponsored by Sen. Renee Unterman (R – Buford), celebrates the Spectrum Autism Support Group's 20th anniversary. This organization provides monthly support groups and a camp for families with members in the autism community. - **SR 597**

Congratulating the Blessed Trinity Catholic High School Football Team

Senate Resolution 598, sponsored by Sen. John Albers (R – Roswell), congratulates the Blessed Trinity Catholic High School Titans for their successful football season. The Titans recently won the 2017 Class AAAA Georgia High School Association State Football Championship, beating their region rival 16-7. This was Blessed Trinity's first state football championship title. - **SR 598**



Acknowledging Local Physician Dr. Frank McDonald

Senate President Pro Tempore Butch Miller (R – Gainesville) sponsored Senate Resolution 600, which recognizes Dr. Frank McDonald for service to his community. Dr. McDonald received his medical degree from the University of Mississippi School of Medicine. He completed his residency at University Hospital in Jackson, Mississippi with a focus in neurology, and received a fellowship with a focus in electrophysiology. Dr. McDonald is board certified in neurology by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology and has practiced for more than 15 years, diagnosing and treating neurological illnesses. - **SR 600**

THURSDAY, JANUARY 25

Medical Examiner Requirements Revised

Senate Bill 327, sponsored by Sen. John Albers (R – Roswell), would modernize the definition of when an autopsy is required. It eliminates the requirement for the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI) Medical Examiner's Office or other medical examiners to perform a formal inquiry when a person dies, who has not been under the care of a physician, if there is nothing suspicious in determining the cause of death. This legislation does clarify that the coroner has the right to use discretion to perform an inquiry or request services from the GBI medical examiner if he or she deems it necessary. SB 327 passed by a vote of 55-0. - **SB 327**



Senate Honors Project Mail Call

Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (R – Marietta) sponsored Senate Resolution 582 recognizing Project Mail Call. Project Mail Call began in 2005 with the purpose of sending customized care packages to American troops overseas. The project focuses on sending mail to soldiers with unique needs, those in remote locations, who may not receive mail and those providing humanitarian aid. Since the project's inception in 2005, there have been more than 38,000 volunteers, and mail has been sent to more than 50 countries. - **SR 582**

Health Information Technology Professionals Recognized

Senate Resolution 604, sponsored by Sen. Bruce Thompson (R – White) and presented by Sen. Lee Anderson (R – Grovetown), commends healthcare Information Technology (IT) professionals throughout the state. In Georgia, there are more than 200 healthcare IT companies employing more than 30,000 professionals. Healthcare IT professionals work to prevent identity theft and keep the integrity of patient's information confidential. - **SR 604**

National Guard Day at the Capitol

Sen. Ben Watson (R – Savannah) sponsored Senate Resolution 609, which recognizes the National Guard for its service to the citizens of Georgia. The Georgia National Guard assists in search and rescue operations, sets up and runs mobile hospitals and provides aid and relief efforts during hurricane season. The Georgia Air National Guard has remained deployed since the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. - **SR 609**

DeKalb County First Responders Commended

Senate Resolution 623, sponsored by Sen. John Albers (R – Roswell), commends Captain Scott Stroup and the DeKalb Fire and Rescue Department for their heroic actions, which saved more than 100 people. On January 3, 2018, Captain Stroup caught a young girl after her father dropped her out of a third floor window from a burning apartment building. - **SR 623**

Legislative Calendar Set Through Day 40

Sen. Bill Cowsert (R – Athens) sponsored [Senate Resolution 631](#), which sets the legislative schedule through the end of the 2018 Legislative Session. This schedule sets Crossover Day, Day 28, for Wednesday, February 28, and *Sine Die*, Day 40, for Thursday, March 29. - **SR 631**

**The Georgia Senate will reconvene at 10:00a.m. on
MONDAY, JANUARY 29.**