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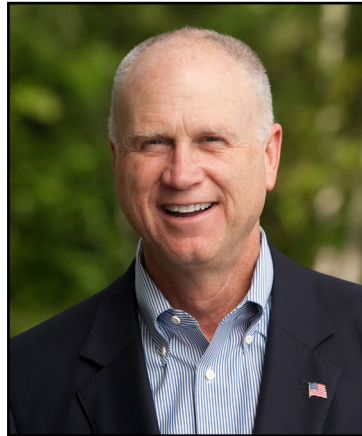
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This Week in the Senate

February 5-8, 2019



First Vote on the Senate Floor

Week four under the Gold Dome was busy with committee meetings, votes in the Senate and several guests visiting our chamber.

On Tuesday, I had the honor of hosting Georgia Blue Key Day at the Capitol. My colleagues and I welcomed the University of Georgia chapter of the Blue Key National Honor Society. This wonderful group represents students in higher education who have achieved success in life by keeping the right balance between academics, employment, family life and public service. I want to recognize the distinguished members of our body – Sen. Bill Cowsert (R – Athens), Sen. Jack Hill (R – Reidsville) and Sen. Blake Tillery (R – Vidalia) – who served as Blue Key members. Their service during their time in the organization and since is truly commendable.

On Tuesday, we also honored our firefighters – the brave men and women who run in to danger when everyone else is running away. Sen. John Albers (R – Roswell), who serves as a firefighter, sponsored Senate Resolution 71 declaring February 5, 2019, as Firefighters Recognition Day. It was wonderful to have Georgia firefighters join us in the Chamber and to recognize all of their sacrifice and bravery. Their presentation ended with a surprise for the Senate Majority Leader Mike Dugan (R – Carrollton) who was honored with the Georgia State Firefighters Association Legislative Service Award.

We also recognized Girl Scouts of Greater Atlanta, Georgia 4-H, Georgia YMCA Youth Assembly and White County, as well as numerous sports teams this week for their achievements and contributions to our great state. We were also honored with a visit from our friends in Congress, Congressman Buddy Carter (GA – 1) and Congressman Rick Allen (GA – 12), who visited the Senate to thank the chamber for our efforts to make Georgia the “best state in which to do business” for the sixth year in a row. It is always great to visit with our congressmen, and we wish them the best as they work hard on our behalf in D.C.

Along with honoring organizations and welcoming our visitors, the Senate was busy holding several committee meetings and introducing numerous bills and resolutions. We also voted on this term’s first piece of legislation. Senate Bill 25, sponsored by Sen. Bill Heath (R – Bremen), clarifies when the driver of a vehicle needs to stop, or not stop, upon encountering a stopped school bus. I am proud of our body for coming together on this important issue and passing this language with unanimous, bipartisan support.

Lastly, we were able to work with our friends in the House to set the calendar through *Sine Die*. The date for Crossover has been set for March 7, 2019, and *Sine Die* will be on April 2, 2019. Our calendar is packed with five-day work weeks and days set aside for committee work. As the days get longer and the work load increases, please do not hesitate to reach out. Our office is always here to help and we look forward to continuing our work on behalf of the people of Georgia.

Senator Butch Miller
President Pro Tempore, Georgia Senate

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5

United States Congressman Buddy Carter Visits Senate

Congressman Buddy Carter (GA – 1) visited the state Senate, where he informed senators that work on the Savannah Harbor Project will continue on a national level this session. His other focuses include lowering health care costs related to prescription drugs and battling the opioid epidemic.

Senate Welcomes United States Congressman Rick Allen

Congressman Rick Allen (GA – 12) visited the Senate to thank the members for their continued efforts in making Georgia the “best state in which to do business” for the sixth year in a row. The congressman recognized Augusta Day at the Capitol, emphasized the need for workforce development in K-12 education and thanked Georgia’s teachers for their hard work.



Georgia Blue Key Day at the Capitol

Senate Resolution 13, sponsored by President Pro Tempore Butch Miller (R – Gainesville), welcomed the University of Georgia’s chapter of the Blue Key National Honor Society to the Senate in celebration of Georgia Blue Key Day at the Capitol. The Blue Key National Honor Society recognizes students in higher education for their excellence in scholarship, leadership and service. UGA’s Blue Key chapter has served the staff and students of the university for 93 years, making it the third oldest chapter in the country. – **SR 13**



Recognizing Youth Equine Championship Day

Sen. John Wilkinson (R – Toccoa) sponsored Senate Resolution 59 which recognized Tuesday, February 5, as Youth Equine Championship Day at the Capitol. Several young equestrians from across Georgia were celebrated in the Senate for their achievements in local, national and international levels of competition. – **SR 59**

Firefighters Recognition Day Celebrated in the Senate

Senate Resolution 71, sponsored by Sen. John Albers (R – Roswell), honored Georgia’s firefighters by declaring Tuesday, February 5, as Firefighters Recognition Day at the Capitol. Over

30,000 firefighters in Georgia have committed their lives to protecting the people of Georgia and their property. The Senate honors each and every firefighter for going beyond the call of duty in their efforts to suppress fires and educate Georgians about fire prevention. – **SR 71**

Girl Scouts of Greater Atlanta Visit Senate

Sen. Elena Parent (D – Atlanta) sponsored Senate Resolution 74 which designated Tuesday, February 5, as Girl Scout Day at the Capitol. The Girl Scouts were founded by Juliette Gordon Low in Savannah, Georgia, in 1912. The organization is recognized for its work in building leadership skills for young women by offering hands-on lessons in entrepreneurship, STEM and wilderness training. The Senate congratulated two Girl Scout Gold Award recipients for their community service in their respective communities. – **SR 74**



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6

Georgia State Retirees Association Day at the Capitol

Senate Resolution 78, sponsored by Sen. Michael Rhett (D – Marietta), declared Wednesday, February 6, as Georgia State Retirees Association (GSRA) Day at the Capitol. GSRA is a nonprofit organization that boasts a membership of over 50,000 active and retired Georgia state employees and educators. The organization provides educational opportunities for its members including the exchange of information, ideas, knowledge and expertise regarding the betterment of the retired community. – *SR 78*



Reverend Dr. Tony Sundermeier Recognized by Senate

Sen. Nikema Williams (D – Atlanta) sponsored Senate Resolution 89 which commends Reverend Dr. Tony Sundermeier of the First Presbyterian Church of Atlanta for his work within his community and congregation. The church hosts programs for persons experiencing addiction, homelessness and mental illness. Reverend Dr. Sundermeier was recognized as a “source of strength and direction” for people from all walks of life. – *SR 89*

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7

Clarifying Georgia Drivers' Ability to Pass School Busses

Senate Bill 2, sponsored by Sen. Bill Heath (R – Bremen), would clarify when the driver of a vehicle needs to stop, or not stop, upon encountering a stopped school bus. Legislation passed during the 2018 session stated that drivers can pass a stopped school bus when there is separation of traffic by a single turn lane. SB 25 addresses this language and clarifies that those passing a stopped school bus in the opposite direction may only do so if there is a grass median, unpaved area or barrier separating the two directions of traffic. SB 25 passed with a vote of 55-0. – *SB 25*



Dahlonega-Lumpkin County Day at the Capitol

Sen. Steve Gooch (R – Dahlonega) sponsored Senate Resolution 33 which declared Thursday, February 7, as Dahlonega-Lumpkin County Day at the Capitol. Lumpkin County, founded in 1832, covers 284 square miles and has a population of more than 30,000. Dahlonega is located by the southernmost terminus of the Appalachian Trail and is home to many attractions, including the University of North Georgia, which is the only Senior Military College in Georgia, and the Dahlonega Gold Museum. – *SR 33*

Senate Welcomes Consul General Andrew Staunton of the United Kingdom

Senate Resolution 50, sponsored by Sen. Jen Jordan (D – Atlanta), expresses appreciation for the economic, cultural and educational partnership between the State of Georgia and the United Kingdom. Her Majesty's Consul General Andrew Staunton was recognized by the Senate for his work in fostering this relationship. Georgia is home to the British Consulate General of the Southeast, as well as 330 British owned facilities which employ over 18,000 Georgians. – *SR 50*



Georgia 4-H Day at the Capitol

Sen. Ellis Black (R – Valdosta) sponsored Senate Resolution 79 which recognizes Thursday, February 7, as 4-H Day at the Capitol. Georgia 4-H is a program that provides opportunities for adult mentors to give young people hands-on experiences in agriculture, STEM, healthy living and civic engagement. The resolution also commends State 4-H President John Henry Walker, as well as UGA Cooperative Extension and Director and State 4-H Leader Arch D. Smith for their work in making this organization an environment in which young people thrive. – **SR 79**

Senate Sets Calendar Through *Sine Die*

House Resolution 152, carried by Sen. Mike Dugan (R – Carrollton), outlines the calendar for the remainder of the 2019 Legislative Session. Crossover Day will be on March 7, 2019, and *Sine Die* will be on April 2, 2019. – **HR 152**

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8

Senate Introduces the Georgia Commission on Freight and Logistics

Senate Resolution 19, sponsored by Sen. Brandon Beach (R – Alpharetta), would create the Georgia Commission on Freight, Innovation and Logistics. The Commission would be tasked with formulating a strategic business plan to enhance statewide freight and logistics infrastructure, and creating vocational programs that will fill future workforce needs. SR 19 passed with a vote of 54-0. – **SR 19**

Senate Congratulates 2018 Parkview High School Baseball Team

Sen. P.K. Martin (R – Lawrenceville) sponsored Senate Resolution 21 which recognized the 2018 Parkview High School baseball team for their outstanding season. The team's 35-6 record is only a part of their success—their hard work and dedication earned them the school's third Baseball America National Championship, seventh state championship and 22nd region championship. – **SR 21**

The State YMCA of Georgia's Youth Assembly

Senate Resolution 80, sponsored by Sen. Brian Strickland (R – McDonough), congratulated the state YMCA of Georgia's Youth Assembly on reaching its 75th anniversary. The Youth Assembly is a model state legislature for high school students allowing them to serve as mock legislators, justices, attorneys, press corps members and lobbyists. The Senate welcomed some of the Youth Assembly members and commended them for their civic engagement. – **SR 80**



Reverend Minho Chung Recognized by Senate

Sen. Zahra Karinshak (D – Duluth) sponsored Senate Resolution 101 which thanked Reverend Minho Chung of the Korean Church of Atlanta in Duluth for serving as Chaplain of the Day. SR 101 commends Reverend Chung for his leadership and service to his community. Reverend Chung has served as the Church's English Ministry Pastor since 2011, and serves Gwinnett County through his partnerships with public schools and Gwinnett UNITE. – **SR 101**

White County Celebrated

Senate Resolution 118, sponsored by Sen. Steve Gooch (R – Dahlonega), designated White County as Georgia's Outdoor Adventure Destination. White County has long been known for its outdoor recreation and abundance of natural resources. White County has a nationally recognized mountain biking trail which was utilized in the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta, and is home to some of Georgia's most prominent natural landscapes, including Mount Yonah and Ruby Falls. – **SR 118**



**The Georgia Senate will reconvene at 10:00 a.m. on
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11.**