



## Georgia Senate Press Office Staff

**Ines Owens**  
*Director*

**Elisabeth Fletcher**  
*Communications Specialist*

**Andrew Allison**  
*Broadcast Specialist*

**Annie Wimbush**  
*Communications Associate*

**Charlotte Densmore**  
*2019 Legislative Intern*

**LaDarius Dennison**  
*2019 Broadcast Aide*

**Lara Ijito**  
*2019 Legislative Aide*

**Gabriela Tedesco**  
*2019 Legislative Aide*

**Ananda Wiggins**  
*2019 Broadcast Aide*

**Keenan Rogers**  
*2019 Senate Photographer*

201 Coverdell Legislative Office Building  
18 Capitol Square S.W.  
Atlanta, GA 30303  
p: 404.656.0028

## FOLLOW US



fb.com/GeorgiaStateSenate



@gasenatepress



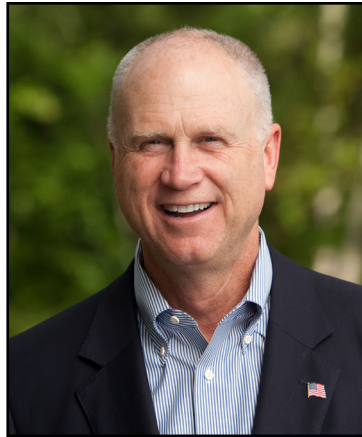
@gasenatepress



GeorgiaStateSenate

# This Week in the Senate

## March 11-14, 2019



### House Bills and Budget Hearings

This week, the Senate convened for three legislative days and one committee work day, putting us more than three-fourths of the way through the legislative session. Committee work days will become more frequent, as will long days in chamber and long nights reading legislation.

This week, we heard a number of measures in the Senate, but the measure we heard on Wednesday is among the more important bills that we've debated in some time. This is because a secure and fair election is a pillar on which our country prides itself and the foundation of any government that works for the people. Enter House Bill 316, which updates our 16-year-old voting system.

Right now, the State of Georgia uses machines that utilize touch screen technology which allow you to vote electronically. The new machines, which HB 316 would deliver, would be similar-with one major difference. The new machines will allow you to choose your candidates on the touch screen and would then print your selections on a paper receipt. This will allow you to have a record of your vote and to verify that all the selections you made on the screen are the candidates and answers to constitutional amendments you meant to choose. You would then scan the barcode on that piece of paper, officially submitting your vote. This comes at the recommendation of the SAFE Commission, which was tasked with auditing the elections voting system this past year. It also comes with the support of many county elections officials who are ready for new, updated equipment. This bill has received final passage in the Senate and House and is now on the way to the Governor where he is expected to sign it shortly.

As we inch closer to Sine Die, the budget is in the final stages of being perfected. This week, the remaining budget hearings were held, eliciting testimony from various departments and agencies. Soon, we'll have the Senate Appropriations Committee's final recommendations in our hands. None of this would be possible without the hard work of Sen. Jack Hill (R – Reidsville), his office and the Senate Budget and Evaluation Office.

There will be many bills flowing through our chamber in the next few weeks and I encourage you to reach out to me with any questions. I'll keep you updated on all pieces of legislation and ensure that our counterparts in the House aren't sending us legislation that will have a negative effect on our budget or compromise our promise to keep as many of your taxpayer dollars in your pocket as possible. As always, it is a pleasure to serve you.

**Senator Butch Miller**  
*President Pro Tempore, Georgia Senate*

## MONDAY, MARCH 11

### Urging the Georgia High School Association to Review its Finances

Senate Resolution 266, sponsored by Sen. Ellis Black (R – Valdosta), urges the Georgia High School Association to conduct a financial assessment of its operations and practices. SR 266 passed with a vote of 50 to 0. – **SR 266**

### Licensing Genetic Counselors

Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (R – Marietta) carried House Bill 166 which would create a licensing protocol for genetic counselors through the Georgia Composite Medical Board and defines the requirements to practice genetic counseling. This legislation specifies that licensed genetic counselors must be at least 21 years old, have participated in a master's or doctoral genetic counseling program and that their licenses are valid for two years. HB 166 passed with a vote of 45 to 4. – **HB 166**

### Conveyance of State-Owned Real Property

House Resolution 165, carried by Sen. Ed Harbison (D – Columbus), would authorize the conveyance of state-owned real property in Baldwin, Chatham, Clayton, Colquitt and Hall Counties. HR 165 would also authorize the lease of state-owned property in Monroe County and ground leasing in Forsyth, Fulton and Rabun Counties. HR 165 passed with a vote of 48 to 0. – **HR 165**

### Unify Georgia Day Celebrated in the Senate

Sen. Donzella James (D – Atlanta) sponsored Senate Resolution 146 which commended the Perfect Love Foundation's Unify America initiative and declared Monday, March 11, as Unify Georgia Day at the Capitol. – **SR 146**

### Senate Celebrates Dallas Ward

Senate Resolution 294, sponsored by Sen. John F. Kennedy (R – Macon), recognized Dallas Ward for her multiple championships in youth clay shooting. On top of her 2018 national championship win, she was the highest scoring female shooter at the Southeastern Youth Clay Target Combine with a score of 139. – **SR 294**

### Recognizing Georgia Consortium for Advanced Technical Training Graduates

Sen. Matt Brass (R – Newnan) sponsored Senate Resolution 322 which commended Levi Coe, Josiah Henderson and Cole McKeehan who are the first high school students to complete the Georgia Consortium for Advanced Technical Training (GA CATT) program. The GA CATT allows high school students to earn their high school diploma, along with a technical college degree and German apprenticeship qualification. – **SR 322**

### Savannah St. Patrick's Day Committee Commended in Senate

Senate Resolution 323, sponsored by Sen. Ben Watson (R – Savannah), commended the Savannah St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee for their hard work on the event, which is one of the largest Irish heritage celebrations in the United States. The 93rd annual parade will be held on Saturday, March 16. – **SR 323**





## TUESDAY, MARCH 12

### Committee Work Day

Senate Standing Committees met to vet and debate House Bills that made it to the Senate after the Crossover Day deadline on March 7th. Senate Appropriations Subcommittees also held meetings on the proposed Fiscal Year 2020 General Budget – House Bill 31 – which totals around \$27.5 billion.

---

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13

### Updating Georgia's Election System

Sen. William Ligon (R – White Oak) carried House Bill 316 which would establish a new statewide election voting system. HB 316 would enable the use of an electronic ballot marking device that would print a paper ballot for voters to review and verify before submitting. HB 316 would also outline procedures and voting requirements, including expanding access for disabled individuals, citizens in jail, and allowing for an updated review process for provisional ballots and audits. HB 316 passed with a vote of 35 to 21. – **HB 316**



### Remembering Tom Paris, Jr.

Senate Resolution 218, sponsored by President Pro Tempore Butch Miller (R – Gainesville), honored the life and legacy of Tom Paris, Jr., who served as 1957 Gainesville High School class president and had a successful football career where he won the SEC Championship with the University of Georgia. Mr. Paris was commended by the Senate for being a “pillar” in Gainesville throughout his life. – **SR 218**

### Commending Marshall Scholar Kevin Morris

Sen. Burt Jones (R – Jackson) sponsored Senate Resolution 330 which recognized Kevin Morris, a graduate of Georgia College and State University, for his selection as a Marshall Scholar. Marshall Scholarships support continued education at a university in the United Kingdom for students who have exemplified outstanding academic success. – **SR 330**

### Recognizing Georgia Tech Football Coach Geoff Collins

Senate Resolution 332, sponsored by Sen. P.K. Martin (R – Lawrenceville), commended Geoff Collins on his selection as the Georgia Institute of Technology's new head football coach. Coach Collins is from Conyers, Georgia, and the Senate welcomed him back to his home state from his last position at Temple University. – **SR 332**



## THURSDAY, MARCH 14

### Providing an Additional Judge to the Gwinnett County Superior Court

Sen. P.K. Martin (R – Lawrenceville) carried House Bill 21 which would add an additional judge to the Gwinnett County Superior Court, bringing the total number of judges from 10 to 11. The judge would be appointed by the Governor to serve a two-year term starting January 1, 2020, and would subsequently be replaced by an elected successor. HB 21 passed with a vote of 52 to 1. – **HB 21**



### Adding a Judge to the Griffin Superior Court

House Bill 28, carried by Sen. John F. Kennedy (R – Macon), would increase the number of judges on the Griffin Superior Court from four to five. The judge would be appointed by the Governor, starting their two-year term on January 1, 2020, and would be succeeded by an elected judge after their appointed term. HB 28 passed with a vote of 52 to 1. – **HB 28**

### Commending the Police Chief of the Year

Sen. Renee Unterman (R – Buford) sponsored and Sen. John Albers (R – Roswell) introduced Senate Resolution 47 which honored Suwanee Police Chief Michael S. Jones for earning the title of 2018-2019 Georgia Police Chief of the Year. Having begun his career in 1974, Chief Jones has served his community in Suwanee for the last 20 years. – **SR 47**

### Celebrating Smokey Bear's 75th Birthday

Senate Resolution 235, sponsored by Sen. Larry Walker (R – Perry), recognized Smokey Bear for 75 years of wildfire prevention education, which is the longest running public service campaign in United States history. By working with the Georgia Forestry Commission, the U.S. Forest Service is involved in an ongoing effort to lower Georgia's average of 2,868 wildfires per year. – **SR 235**



### Recognizing Morris Brown College Day

Sen. Donzella James (D – Atlanta) sponsored Senate Resolution 247 which declared Thursday, March 14, as Morris Brown College Day at the Capitol. Morris Brown College was granted a charter in 1885, making it Georgia's first educational institution solely under African American patronage. – **SR 247**

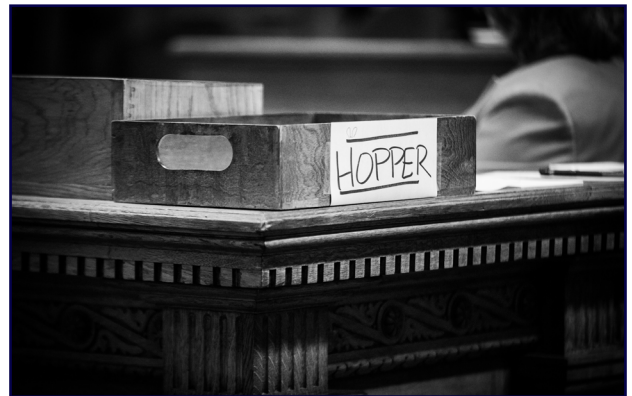
### Type 1 Diabetes Day

Senate Resolution 361, sponsored by Sen. Ben Watson (R – Savannah), recognized Georgians with type 1 diabetes and their families and declared March 14 as Type 1 Diabetes Day at the Capitol. Over 14 percent of Georgia's population lives with type 1 diabetes and an estimated 40,000 Americans are diagnosed with the disease annually. – **SR 361**

### The Senate Welcomes Consulate General Shane Stephens of Ireland

Sen. John F. Kennedy (R – Macon) sponsored Senate Resolutions 362 and 363 which welcomed Consul General of Ireland Shane Stephens to the Senate. Mr. Stephens expressed his appreciation for Georgia's continued educational and economic partnership with Ireland. – **SR 362 & 363**





The Georgia Senate will reconvene at 10:00 a.m. on  
**MONDAY, MARCH 18.**