

From the Upper Chamber



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Report for Thursday, January 17, 2008

The fourth day of the 2008 legislative session was called to order by Lieutenant Governor **Casey Cagle**.

Senator **Jeff Mullis** of the 53rd stated that the journal had been read and was found to be correct.

Senate Bills 346-352 and Senate Resolutions 716, 718, 720 and 721 were then read for the first time and assigned to committees. The clerk of the Secretary of Senate also read the reports of standing committees and second readers.

After the morning roll call, Sen. **Ron Ramsey** of the 43rd led the Senate in the Pledge of Allegiance. He introduced the *Chaplain of the Day*, Pastor **Eric Wendel Lee, Sr.** of Springfield Baptist Church in Conyers, who led the Senate in the daily devotional.

SR 717 and 719 were then read and adopted.

Lt. Gov. **Cagle** recognized Sen. **Judson Hill** of the 32nd, who took the rostrum to introduce the *Doctor of the Day*, Dr. **Tom Cooper** of Marietta.

The Local Consent Calendar, consisting of House Bill 801, was adopted by a vote of 49 to 1.

The clerk read SB 76, which transfers certain administrative powers, such as the appointment of Senate standing committees, from the Committee on Assignments to the Office of the Lieutenant Governor.

President Pro Tempore **Eric Johnson** of the 1st took the well to explain the bill.

SB 76 passed by a vote of 55 to 0.

The clerk then read the Committee Substitute to HB 89, which changes several provisions regarding the legal possession of concealed firearms. HB 89 would allow those who lawfully possess a concealed weapon to store that weapon in a locked vehicle in the parking lot of an employer, a public park, a historic site or recreation area under certain circumstances.

Sen. **Chip Rogers** of the 21st took the well to explain the current version of the bill, which has been referred to as the “parking lot bill.” He yielded to questions from Senators **David Adelman** of the 42nd, **Steve Thompson** of the 33rd, **Preston Smith** of the 52nd, **Dan Weber** of the 40th, **Ralph Hudgens** of the 47th, **Vincent Fort** of the 39th, **Kasim Reed** of the 35th, **Michael Meyer von Bremen** of the 12th, **George Hooks** of the 14th, **Emanuel Jones** of the 10th and **Dan Moody** of the 56th.

Sen. **Adelman** took the well to present his Amendment 1, which would give precedence to the property rights of employers who lease their property over the right to carry or store a concealed weapon on the property. He yielded to questions from Sens. **Smith**, **Nan Orrock** of the 36th and **Meyer von Bremen**.

Sen. **Jones** took the well to present his Amendment 2, which he stated would add some protection in cases in which a concealed weapon was stolen from an employee’s automobile. He also introduced Amendment 4, which is similar to Amendment 2 but adds customers, employers’ agents, contract workers, vendors and suppliers to the language of the bill.

Sen. **Reed** took the well to explain his Amendment 3, which increases the time period for a probate judge to approve a request for a concealed firearm license or renewal permit from two days to five days.

Sen. **Fort** took the well to discuss language in the bill concerning the request process for a new firearm license or renewal permit.

Sen. **Seth Harp** of the 29th took the well to discuss the process by which a citizen can obtain a license to carry a concealed weapon.

Amendment 1 failed by a vote of 17 to 29.

Sen. **Jones** asked for a vote of yeas and nays on Amendments 2 and 3.

Amendment 2 failed by a vote of 15 to 41.

Amendment 3 failed by a vote of 21 to 35.

Amendment 4 failed by a vote of 16 to 35.

The Committee Substitute to HB 89 was adopted by a vote of 44 to 5.

HB 89 passed by substitute by a vote of 41 to 15.

Following the announcements, Majority Leader **Tommie Williams** of the 19th moved the Senate stand adjourned until 9:00 a.m., Friday, January 18.

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