THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND YOUTH
2025-2026 ROSTER

Sen. Billy Hickman, Chairman
District 4
P.O. Box 25
Statesboro, GA 30459

Sen. Chuck Payne, Vice-Chairman
District 54
P.O. Box 1074
Dalton, GA 30722

Sen. Freddie Powell Sims, Secretary
District 12
5377 Goose Hollow Road
Dawson, GA 31742

Sen. Timothy Bearden
District 30
304-B CLOB
Atlanta, GA 30334

Sen. Clint Dixon, Ex-Officio
District 45
P.O. Box 802
Buford, GA 30515

Sen. Greg Dolezal, Ex-Officio
District 27
6505 Shiloh Road, Suite 200
Alpharetta, GA 30005

Sen. Sonya Halpern
District 39
P.O. Box 13142
Atlanta, GA 30324

Sen. Bo Hatchett, Ex-Officio
District 50
P.O. Box 2706
Clarkesville, GA 30523

Sen. Donzella James
District 28
P.O. Box 311225
Atlanta, GA 30331

Sen. RaShaun Kemp
District 38
P.O. Box 310041
Atlanta, GA 31131

Sen. Elena Parent
District 44
121-A State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334

Sen. Ed Setzler
District 37
1555 Boxwood Trace
Acworth, GA 30102

Sen. Shawn Still
District 48
2850 Simpson Circle
Norcross, GA 30071

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Education and Youth
Thursday, January 30, 2025

The Senate Committee on Education and Youth met on January 30, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. in Room 450 of the State Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Billy Hickman (4th), Chairman
Sen. Chuck Payne (54th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Timothy Bearden (30th)
Sen. Clint Dixon (45th), Ex-Officio (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Sonya Halpern (39th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th), Ex-Officio (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. RaShaun Kemp (38th)
Sen. Elena Parent (44th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Ed Setzler (37th)
Sen. Shawn Still (48th)

NOTE: Sen. Donzella James (28th) was absent.

Chairman Hickman (4th) called the meeting or order at 1:01 p.m.

The Chair explained his Legislative Priorities for the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Dixon (45th) arrived at 1:03 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Parent (44th) arrived at 1:03 p.m.

The Rules of the Committee were discussed. The Chair recognized Sen. Setzler (37th) who made a motion to adopt the Committee Rules for the 2025-2026 Biennium. Sen. Dixon (45th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. A copy of the adopted Rules is attached.

NOTE: Sen. Sims (12th) arrived at 1:06 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Halpern (39th) arrived at 1:06 p.m.

SB 1 (Sen. Dolezal, 27th, LC 49 2089) 'Fair and Safe Athletic Opportunities Act'; enact

The Chair recognized Sen. Dolezal (27th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Dolezal (27th) presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Hatchett (50th) arrived at 1:07 p.m.

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public. He recognized the following:

Testimony in favor of the Bill:
Reka Gyorgy, Citizen

Kaitlyn Wheeler, Citizen
Katie Blankenship, Citizen
Kylee Alons, Citizen
Mike Griffin, Georgia Baptist

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:
Jodi Greenwald, MD, North Fulton Pediatrics
Emily Kelly, Citizen
Carl Charles, Lambda Legal
Evelina Pierce, Citizen
Soju Hokari, Citizen
Bella Bautista, Citizen
Heidi Miracle, Citizen
Reverend Kathryn Folk, First United Lutheran Church
Cory Issacson, ACLU
Hannah Davis, Planned Parenthood
Representative Park Cannon

The Chair recognized Sen. Kemp (38th) who made a motion to **Amend SB 1** by adding in line 336: subsection "(n) Nothing in this Code section shall be construed to authorize or require a local school system, a public school, or any employee or agent thereof to confirm the sex of a student by visual inspection of such student's exterior sex organs." Sen. Dolezal (27th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair recognized Sen. Parent (44th) who made a motion to **Amend SB 1** by inserting after line 31 "the provisions of this subsection shall not apply to teams comprised exclusively of students in Kindergarten through grade eight". Sen. Kemp (38th) seconded the motion. The motion failed by a vote of 4-7.

Sen. Halpern (39th), Sen. Kemp (38th), Sen. Parent (44th), and Sen. Sims (12th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Bearden (30th), Sen. Dixon (45th), Sen. Dolezal (27th), Sen. Hatchett (50th), Sen. Payne (54th), Sen. Setzler (37th), and Sen. Still (48th) voted against the motion.

The Chair recognized Sen. Bearden (30th) who made a motion that **SB 1 Do Pass by Committee Substitute (LC 49 2184S)**. Sen. Dixon (45th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 8-3.

Sen. Bearden (30th), Sen. Dixon (45th), Sen. Dolezal (27th), Sen. Hatchett (50th), Sen. Payne (54th), Sen. Setzler (37th), Sen. Sims (12th), and Sen. Still (48th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Halpern (39th), Sen. Kemp (38th), and Sen. Parent (44th) voted against the motion.

Committee Recommendation: SB 1 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 49 2184S)

Chairman Hickman (4th) adjourned the meeting at 3:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary

/s/
Sophia Bhalla, Recording Secretary

THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND YOUTH
2025-2026 COMMITTEE RULES

The Rules of the Committee shall be the Rules of the Subcommittees.

1. The quorum for the Education and Youth Committee shall be 6 members. Record of attendance will be maintained for each full Committee or subcommittee meeting. This information shall be considered public.
2. The Committee shall convene, recess, and adjourn upon the order of the Chairman. Recess or adjournment of the Committee may also take place by an affirmative vote of a majority of the members present.
3. A bill or resolution will only be placed on the Committee agenda after its principal sponsor completes a bill summary form. When a bill or resolution is placed on the Committee agenda, the principal sponsor shall be notified of the time and the place of the hearing. A bill, resolution, or other matter will be considered only after presentation by its principal sponsor or a legislator designated by the principal sponsor.
4. The Chairman shall establish the meeting agenda and determine the measures to be considered and the order of consideration. No motion that the Committee recommends (Do Pass, Do Not Pass, etc.) shall be in order until the Chairperson has stated that such a motion will be entertained.
5. The Chairman may appoint subcommittees and officers of subcommittees, and at the discretion of the Chairman, refer any matter to a subcommittee; but no measure will be returned to the full Senate until it is considered by the full Committee. All Committee officers will be ex-officio voting subcommittee members.
6. Any member or members who disagree with the majority report of the Committee may file a minority report as provided in the Rules of the Senate.
7. These Rules may be amended or suspended upon the motion duly made and approved by a majority of the members of the Committee.
8. Five minutes prior to, during, and five minutes after a televised or web-cast Committee meeting, no one other than a member of the Committee, Legislative Counsel, Committee Aide, Administrative Assistant to the Chairperson, or Committee Intern, shall walk beyond the witness pulpit for any reason.
9. During Committee meetings, Committee members and everyone in the audience shall either turn off or place in silent mode all cell phones, pagers or other similar devices.
10. Any proposed measure shall include a fiscal note when appropriate, as determined by the Chairman, prior to Committee consideration.
11. All publications, flyers, or any other materials to be distributed to the Committee shall be given to the Chairman or their assistant and will be distributed by the Chairman at the appropriate time.
12. Except for Legislative Counsel, no one shall speak to a member of the Committee while a televised or web-cast meeting is in progress without first obtaining the consent of the Chairman. A request to speak should be given to the Administrative Aide or Committee Aide, which will then be passed to the Chairman for approval.

13. Action may be taken by the Committee on any bill the first time it is presented, (except for those matters deemed as “Hearing Only” by the Chairperson). The Chairperson shall have the option to take action on a resolution.
14. Committee and Subcommittee members may question witnesses only when they have been recognized by the Chairman for that purpose. The Chairman may also set time limits for the process.
15. The Secretary of the Committee shall cause a copy of the Rules to be distributed to all members of the Senate.

Minutes of the Joint Meeting of the Senate Committee on Education and Youth and House Education Committee
Monday, February 3rd, 2025

The Senate Committee on Education and Youth and the House Education Committee met on Monday, February 3, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. in Room 506 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Billy Hickman (4th), Chairman
Sen. Chuck Payne (54th), Vice-Chairman (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Timothy Bearden (30th) (*Arrived Late*) *(Left Early)*
Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th), Ex-Officio (*Arrived Late*) *(Left Early)*
Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th), Ex-Officio (*Arrived Late*) *(Left Early)*
Sen. Donzella James (28th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. RaShaun Kemp (38th)
Sen. Elena Parent (44th) (*Arrived Late*) *(Left Early)*
Sen. Ed Setzler (37th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Shawn Still (48th) (*Arrived Late*) *(Left Early)*

NOTE: Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary, Sen. Clint Dixon (45th), Ex-Officio, and Sen. Sonya Halpern (39th) were absent.

Chairman Chris Erwin (32nd) called the meeting or order at 1:02 p.m.

The Chair recognized Chairman Hickman (4th) for the purpose of acknowledging the legislative priorities of the Committee.

The Chair recognized Speaker of the House, Jon Burns (159th) to address legislative priorities.

NOTE: Sen. Parent (44th) arrived at 1:12 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Still (48th) arrived at 1:14 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Setzler (37th) arrived at 1:14 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Dolezal (27th) arrived at 1:15 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Hatchett (50th) arrived at 1:15 p.m.

Chairman Erwin (32nd) opened the floor for comments from the public to address legislative priorities. He recognized the following:

Linda Crawley, Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency
Justin Hill, Georgia Department of Education
Kevin Tanner, Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities

NOTE: Sen. Hatchett (50th) left at 1:39 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. James (28th) arrived at 1:52 p.m.

Chairman Hickman (4th) recognized Sarah Richards with the Governor's Office of Student Achievement, Amy Denty with Georgia Department of Education, Stacy Lutz with the Governor's Office of Student Achievement, and Richard Smith with Georgia RESA.

NOTE: Sen. Bearden (30th) arrived at 2:17 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Payne (28th) arrived at 2:20 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Dolezal (27th) left at 2:25 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Still (48th) left at 2:26 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Bearden (30th) left at 2:55 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Parent (44th) left at 2:55 p.m.

Chairman Erwin adjourned the meeting at 2:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/
Sen. Billy Hickman (4th), Chairman

/s/
Sophia Bhalla, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Education and Youth
Tuesday, February 4th, 2025

The Senate Committee on Education and Youth met on Tuesday, February 4, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. in Room 450 of the State Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Billy Hickman (4th), Chairman
Sen. Chuck Payne (54th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary
Sen. Timothy Bearden (30th)
Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Sonya Halpern (39th)
Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Donzella James (28th)
Sen. RaShaun Kemp (38th)
Sen. Elena Parent (44th)
Sen. Shawn Still (48th) (*Arrived Late*)

NOTE: Sen. Clint Dixon (45th), Ex-Officio, and Sen. Ed Setzler (37th) were absent.

Chairman Hickman (4th) called the meeting or order at 2:05 p.m.

SB 22 (Sen. Tillery, 19th, LC 49 2025) State School Superintendent; Department of Education to publish relevant and applicable federal guidance documents and related information; require

NOTE: Sen. Still (48th) arrived at 2:07 p.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Blake Tillery (19th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Tillery (19th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public. He recognized the following:

Testimony in favor of the Bill:
Kennedy Atkins, Georgia Public Policy

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:
None

The Chair recognized Sen. Payne (54th) who made a motion that **SB 22 Do Pass (LC 49 2025).** Sen. Kemp (38th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SB 22 DO PASS (LC 49 2025)

SB 44 (Sen. Watson, 11th, LC 49 2099) Equalization Grants, Annual Calculations, and Allocation; the definition of the term "qualified local school system" by reducing the minimum required millage rate; revise

The Chair recognized Sen. Sam Watson (11th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Watson (11th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair recognized Sen. Dolezal (27th) who made a motion that **SB 44 Do Pass (LC 49 2099).** Sen. Bearden (30th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SB 44 DO PASS (LC 49 2099)

Chairman Hickman (4th) adjourned the meeting at 2:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary

/s/
Sophia Bhalla, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Education and Youth
Tuesday, February 11th, 2025

The Senate Committee on Education and Youth met on Tuesday, February 11, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in Mezzanine 1 of the State Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Billy Hickman (4th), Chairman
Sen. Chuck Payne (54th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Sonya Halpern (39th)
Sen. RaShaun Kemp (38th)
Sen. Elena Parent (44th)

NOTE: Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary, Sen. Tim Bearden (30th), Sen. Clint Dixon (45th), Ex-Officio, Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th), Ex-Officio, Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th), Ex-Officio, Sen. Donzella James (28th), Sen. Ed Setzler (37th), and Sen. Shawn Still (48th) were absent.

Chairman Hickman (4th) called the meeting or order at 6:02 p.m.

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public regarding teachers' retention. He recognized the following:

Buster Evans, Teachers Retirement System of Georgia
Shawonna Coleman, Georgia Reading Core
Matt Cardoza, Georgia Department of Education
Joseph (Jody) Barrow, Georgia Professional Standards Commission

NOTE: Sen. Payne (54th) left at 7:01 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Payne (54th) returned at 7:06 p.m.

Chairman Hickman (4th) adjourned the meeting at 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/
Sen. Billy Hickman (4th), Chairman

/s/
Sophia Bhalla, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Education and Youth
Thursday, February 13, 2025

The Senate Committee on Education and Youth met on Thursday, February 13, 2025 at 1:30 p.m. in Room 450 of the State Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Billy Hickman (4th), Chairman
Sen. Chuck Payne (54th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary *(Left Early)*
Sen. Timothy Bearden (30th)
Sen. Donzella James (28th)
Sen. RaShaun Kemp (38th)
Sen. John F. Kennedy (18th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Elena Parent (44th)
Sen. Shawn Still (48th)

NOTE: Sen. Clint Dixon (45th), Ex-Officio, Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th), Ex-Officio, Sen. Sonya Halpern (39th), Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th), Ex-Officio, and Sen. Ed Setzler (37th), were absent.

NOTE: Sen. John F. Kennedy (18th) was appointed to the Senate Committee on Education and Youth, as an Ex-Officio member, by the Committee on Assignments for the meeting on February 13, 2025. A copy of the appointment letter is attached.

Chairman Hickman (4th) called the meeting or order at 1:40 p.m.

SB 17 (Sen. Anavitarte, 31st, LC 49 2098) "Ricky and Alyssa's Law"; enact

The Chair recognized Sen. Jason Anavitarte (31st) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Anavitarte (31st) presented the bill to the Committee with citizens Lori Alhadeff and Shana Aspinwall.

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public. He recognized the following:

Testimony in favor of the Bill:
Alicia Wright, Georgia Emergency Communications Authority
Anna Burton, GEMA Homeland Security
William McCullough, Geo Commission
Butch Ayes, Georgia Chiefs Association
Alex Carney, Critical Response Group

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:
None

The Chair recognized Sen. James (28th) who made a motion that **SB 17 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 49 2242S)**. Sen. Sims (12th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SB 17 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 49 2242S)

NOTE: Sen. Sims (12th) left at 2:37 p.m.

SB 123 (Sen. Kennedy, 18th, LC 49 2214) Compulsory Attendance; provisions of the state's compulsory school attendance laws; update and revise

The Chair recognized Sen. Kennedy (18th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Kennedy (18th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair recognized Sen. Kemp (38th) who made a motion that **SB 123 Do Pass (LC 49 2214).** Sen. Bearden (30th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SB 123 DO PASS (LC 49 2214)

Chairman Billy Hickman (4th) adjourned the meeting at 2:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/
Sen. Billy Hickman (4th), Chairman

/s/
Sophia Bhalla, Recording Secretary

(4)

OFFICE OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
240 STATE CAPITOL
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334

BURT JONES
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

February 13, 2025

Mr. James Tripp
Secretary of the Senate
353 State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334

Secretary Tripp,

The Committee on Assignments has delegated to the President of the Senate the authority, under Rule 2-3.2 of the Rules of the Georgia Senate, to temporarily appoint ex-officio members of standing committees without further action by the Committee on Assignments.

Pursuant to that authority, I hereby appoint Senator John Kennedy of the 18th District as an ex-officio member of the Senate Education and Youth Committee for the committee meeting to be held on February 13, 2025. Such appointment shall expire upon the adjournment of the meeting.

The designated Senator shall count as a voting member of the Committee for purposes of determining whether a quorum is present at the meeting held on this date and may vote on any matter before the Committee.

Sincerely,

Lt. Governor Burt Jones
President of the Senate

BJ

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Education and Youth
Tuesday, February 18, 2025

The Senate Committee on Education and Youth met on Tuesday, February 18, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Billy Hickman (4th), Chairman
Sen. Chuck Payne (54th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Clint Dixon (45th), Ex-Officio *(Left Early)*
Sen. Sonya Halpern (39th)
Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Donzella James (28th)
Sen. RaShaun Kemp (38th)
Sen. Elena Parent (44th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Ed Setzler (37th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Shawn Still (48th)
Sen. Sam Watson (11th), Ex-Officio

NOTE: Sen. Tim Bearden (30th) and Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th), Ex-Officio, were absent.

NOTE: Sen. Sam Watson (11th) was appointed to the Senate Committee on Education and Youth, as an Ex-Officio member, by the Committee on Assignments for the meeting on February 18, 2025. A copy of the appointment letter is attached.

Chairman Hickman (4th) called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

SB 126 (Sen. Dixon, 45th, LC 49 2168) Completion Special Schools Act; certain students to be enrolled; lower the age of eligibility from 18 to 16

The Chair recognized Sen. Dixon (45th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Dixon (45th) presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Parent (44th) arrived at 5:41 p.m.

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public. He recognized the following:

Testimony in favor of the Bill:
Taylor Duncan, Bulloch County Schools
Chantel Webb, CPHS Bulloch
Natasha Culberson, Coastal Plains Vidalia
Brandon Byrd, Coastal Plains Vidalia
Jamie Gunter, Coastal Plains Vidalia
Sherrie Gibney-Sherman, Foothills
Dale Simpson, Foothills

Mater Djouf, Foothills
Axel Skobba, Foothills
Martha McGlone, Foothills
Laura Lowery, Foothills
Marc Alam Urbach, GA Standards

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:
None

NOTE: Sen. Setzler (37th) arrived at 6:19 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Sims (12th) arrived at 6:20 p.m.

Sen. Kemp (38th) made a motion that **SB 126 Do Pass (LC 49 2168).** Sen. James (28th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 10-1.

Sen. Dixon (45th), Sen. Halpern (39th), Sen. Hatchett (50th), Sen. James (28th), Sen. Kemp (38th), Sen. Parent (44th), Sen. Payne (54th), Sen. Setzler (37th), Sen. Still (48th), and Sen. Watson (11th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Sims (12th) voted against the motion.

Committee Recommendation: SB 126 DO PASS (LC 49 2168)

NOTE: Sen. Dixon (45th) left at 6:21 p.m.

SB 154 (Sen. Hatchett, 50th, LC 49 2225) United States Department of Education; references from the Official Code of Georgia Annotated; revise or remove

The Chair recognized Sen. Hatchett (50th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Hatchett (50th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair recognized Sen. Still (48th) made a motion that **SB 154 Do Pass (LC 49 2168).** Sen. Payne (54th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 7-3.

Sen. Halpern (39th), Sen. Hatchett (50th), Sen. Payne (54th), Sen. Sims (12th), Sen. Setzler (37th), Sen. Still (48th), and Sen. Watson (11th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. James (28th), Sen. Kemp (38th), and Sen. Parent (44th) voted against the motion.

Committee Recommendation: SB 154 DO PASS (LC 49 2168)

Chairman Hickman (4th) adjourned the meeting at 6:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary

/s/
Sophia Bhalla, Recording Secretary

(5)

OFFICE OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
240 STATE CAPITOL
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334

BURT JONES
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

2/18/, 2025

Mr. James Tripp
Secretary of the Senate
353 State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334

Secretary Tripp,

The Committee on Assignments has delegated to the President of the Senate the authority, under Rule 2-3.2 of the Rules of the Georgia Senate, to temporarily appoint ex-officio members of standing committees without further action by the Committee on Assignments.

Pursuant to that authority, I hereby appoint Senator Sam Watson of the 11th District as an ex-officio member of the Education & Youth Committee for the committee meeting to be held on 2/18/2025. Such appointment shall expire upon the adjournment of the meeting.

The designated Senator shall count as a voting member of the Committee for purposes of determining whether a quorum is present at the meeting held on this date and may vote on any matter before the Committee.

Sincerely,

Lt. Governor Burt Jones
President of the Senate

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Education and Youth
Thursday, February 20, 2025

The Senate Committee on Education and Youth met on Thursday, February 20, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. in Room 450 of the State Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Chuck Payne (54th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary
Sen. Timothy Bearden (30th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th), Ex-Officio
Sen. RaShaun Kemp (38th)
Sen. Elena Parent (44th)
Sen. Randy Robertson (29th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Ed Setzler (37th)
Sen. Shawn Still (48th)

NOTE: Sen. Billy Hickman (4th), Chairman, Sen. Clint Dixon (45th), Ex-Officio, Sen. Sonya Halpern (39th), and Sen. Donzella James (28th) were absent.

NOTE: Sen. Randy Robertson (29th) was appointed to the Senate Committee on Education and Youth, as an Ex-Officio member, by the Committee on Assignments for the meeting on February 20, 2025. A copy of the appointment letter is attached.

Vice-Chairman Payne (54th) called the meeting or order at 2:17 p.m.

SB 4 (Sen. Dolezal, 27th, LC 49 2067) Education; fundamental roles of local boards of education and local school superintendents; revise provisions

The Vice-Chair recognized Sen. Dolezal (27th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Dolezal (27th) presented the bill to the committee.

NOTE: Sen. Bearden (30th) arrived at 2:33 p.m.

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public. He recognized the following:

Testimony in favor of the Bill:
Heather Tolley-Bauer, Citizen

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:
Justin Pauly, Georgia School Boards Association

The Vice Chair recognized Sen. Kemp (38th) who made a motion to **Amend SB 4** by striking lines 134 through 139. Sen. Parent (44th) seconded the motion. The motion failed by a vote of 3-6.

Sen. Kemp (38th), Sen. Parent (42nd), and Sen. Sims (12th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Bearden (30th), Sen. Dolezal (27th), Sen. Hatchett (50th), Sen. Robertson (29th), Sen. Setzler (37th), and Sen. Still (48th) voted against the motion.

The Vice-Chair recognized Sen. Sims (12th) who made a motion to **Amend SB 4** by replacing "local school superintendent" on line 50 with "Professional Standards Commission". Sen. Setzler (37th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Vice Chair recognized Sen. Setzer (37th) who made a motion that **SB 4 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 61 0162S)**. Sen. Still (48th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 7-2.

Sen. Bearden (30th), Sen. Dolezal (27th), Sen. Hatchett (50th), Sen. Robertson (29th), Sen. Setzler (37th), Sen. Sims (12th), and Sen. Still (48th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Kemp (38th) and Sen. Parent (42nd) voted against the motion.

Committee Recommendation: SB 4 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 61 0162S)

Vice-Chairman Payne (54th) adjourned the meeting at 3:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary

/s/
Sophia Bhalla, Recording Secretary

(12)

OFFICE OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
240 STATE CAPITOL
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334

BURT JONES
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

2/20, 2025

Mr. James Tripp
Secretary of the Senate
353 State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334

Secretary Tripp,

The Committee on Assignments has delegated to the President of the Senate the authority, under Rule 2-3.2 of the Rules of the Georgia Senate, to temporarily appoint ex-officio members of standing committees without further action by the Committee on Assignments.

Pursuant to that authority, I hereby appoint Senator Randy Robertson of the 29th District as an ex-officio member of the Senate Ed & Youth Committee for the committee meeting to be held on 2/20/2025. Such appointment shall expire upon the adjournment of the meeting.

The designated Senator shall count as a voting member of the Committee for purposes of determining whether a quorum is present at the meeting held on this date and may vote on any matter before the Committee.

Sincerely,

Lt. Governor Burt Jones
President of the Senate

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Education and Youth
Tuesday, February 25, 2025

The Senate Committee on Education and Youth met on Tuesday, February 25, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. in Room 450 of the State Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Billy Hickman (4th), Chairman *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Chuck Payne (54th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Clint Dixon (45th), Ex-Officio *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Sonya Halpern (39th)
Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Donzella James (28th)
Sen. RaShaun Kemp (38th)
Sen. Elena Parent (44th)
Sen. Ed Setzler (37th)
Sen. Shawn Still (48th)

NOTE: Sen. Tim Bearden (30th) was absent.

Vice-Chairman Payne (54th) called the meeting or order at 2:03 p.m.

SB 152 (Sen. Dolezal, 27th, LC 49 2040) "Georgia Promise Scholarship Act"; the biological or adopted children of individuals who are foster parents and who meet certain conditions shall qualify for promise scholarship accounts; provide

The Vice-Chair recognized Sen. Dolezal (27th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Dolezal (27th) presented the bill to the committee.

NOTE: Sen. Dixon (45th) arrived at 2:17 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Sims (12th) arrived at 2:24 p.m.

The Vice-Chair opened the floor for comments from the public. He recognized the following:

Testimony in favor of the Bill:
Whitney Booth
Lila Womack

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:
None

The Vice-Chair recognized Sen. Still (48th) who made a motion that **SB 152 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 49 2264S)**. Sen. Hatchett (50th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 6-5.

Sen. Dixon (45th), Sen. Dolezal (27th), Sen. Hatchett (50th), Sen. Setzler (37th), and Sen. Still (48) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Halpern (39th), Sen. James (28th), Sen. Kemp (38th), Sen. Parent (44th), and Sen. Sims (12th) voted against the motion.

Sen. Payne (54th) voted in favor of the motion to break the tie.

Committee Recommendation: SB 152 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 49 2264S)

SB 74 (Sen. Burns, 23rd, LC 49 2167) Harmful Materials to Minors; exemption for libraries and librarians from the provisions of Code Section 16-12-103; repeal

The Vice-Chair recognized Sen. Max Burns (23rd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Burns (23rd) presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Hickman (4th) arrived at 2:45 p.m.

The Vice-Chair recognized Kerry Pritchard with the Georgia Department of Education for the purpose of speaking to the bill.

The Vice-Chair recognized Sen. Setzler (37th) who made a motion to **Amend SB 74** by inserting "person charged" at the end of line 25, striking line 26 in its entirety, inserting "is" before "employed" on line 27, inserting "a" between "in" and "public" on line 27, and striking "as a librarian" on line 27. Sen. Hickman (4th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 10-1.

Sen. Dixon (45th), Sen. Dolezal (27th), Sen. Halpern (39th), Sen. Hatchett (50th), Sen. Hickman (4th), Sen. Kemp (38th), Sen. Parent (44th), Sen. Setzler (37th), Sen. Sims (12th), and Sen. Still (48th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. James (28th) voted against the motion.

The Vice-Chair indicated his preference that the adopted amendment be included in a perfected substitute.

The Vice-Chair recognized Sen. Setzler (37th) who made a motion that **SB 74 Do Pass by Substitute.** Sen. Dolezal (27th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 6-5.

Sen. Dixon (45th), Sen. Dolezal (27th), Sen. Hatchett (50th), Sen. Hickman (4th), Sen. Setzler (37th), and Sen. Still (48th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Halpern (39th), Sen. James (28th), Sen. Kemp (38th), Sen. Parent (44th), and Sen. Sims (12th) voted against the motion.

Committee Recommendation: SB 74 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 49 2294S)

Vice-Chairman Payne (54th) adjourned the meeting at 3:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary

/s/
Sophia Bhalla, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Education and Youth
Thursday, February 27, 2025

The Senate Committee on Education and Youth met on Thursday, February 27, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. in Room 450 of the State Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Billy Hickman (4th), Chairman
Sen. Chuck Payne (54th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary *(Left Early)*
Sen. Timothy Bearden (30th)
Sen. Clint Dixon (45th), Ex-Officio *(Left Early)*
Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Sonya Halpern (39th) *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th), Ex-Officio *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Donzella James (28th)
Sen. RaShaun Kemp (38th)
Sen. Elena Parent (44th)
Sen. Shawn Still (48th)

NOTE: Sen. Ed Setzler (37th) was absent.

Chairman Hickman (4th) called the meeting or order at 1:04 p.m.

SB 63 (Sen. Dixon, 45th, LC 61 0062) "Quality Basic Education Act"; local school systems offer certain exams to home study students; require

The Chair recognized Sen. Dixon (45th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Dixon (45th) presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Halpern (39th) arrived at 1:10 p.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Payne (54th) who made a motion that **SB 63 Do Pass (LC 61 0062)**. Sen. Bearden (30th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 6-3.

Sen. Bearden (30th), Sen. Dolezal (27th), Sen. James (28th), Sen. Kemp (38th), Sen. Payne (54th), and Sen. Still (48th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Halpern (39th), Sen. Parent (42nd), and Sen. Sims (12th) voted against the motion.

NOTE: Sen. Dixon (45th) left at 1:12 p.m.

Committee Recommendation: SB 63 DO PASS (LC 61 0062)

SR 217 (Sen. Kennedy, 18th, LC 61 0130) Senate Study Committee on Combating Chronic Absenteeism in Schools; create

The Chair recognized Sen. John F. Kennedy (18th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Kennedy (18th) presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Hatchett (50th) arrived at 1:13 p.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Payne (54th) who made a motion that **SR 217 Do Pass (LC 61 0130)**. Sen. Sims (12th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SR 217 DO PASS (LC 61 0130)

SB 148 (Sen. Hatchett, 50th, LC 49 2110) Public School Property and Facilities; outdoor learning spaces pilot program; provide

The Chair recognized Sen. Hatchett (50th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Hatchett (50th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair recognized Sen. Still (48th) for the purpose of presenting an amendment to SB 148.

The Chair recognized Sen. Sheikh Rahman (5th) to speak to the bill.

The Chair recognized Sen. Dolezal (48th) who made a motion to **Amend SB 148** by inserting new language on line 3 and after line 28. Sen. Payne (54th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair indicated his preference that the adopted amendment be included in a perfected substitute.

The Chair recognized Sen. Payne (54th) who made a motion that **SB 148 Do pass by Substitute**. Sen. Kemp (38th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SB 148 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 49 2315S)

SB 124 (Sen. Still, 48th, LC 49 2222) Education; State School Superintendent and the Department of Education to take all steps reasonably necessary to implement guidance documents from a federal agency; require

The Chair recognized Sen. Still (48th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Still (48th) and Lynne Riley with the Georgia Student Finance Commission presented the bill to the committee.

NOTE: Sen. Sims (12th) left at 1:37 p.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Dolezal (27th) who made a motion that **SB 124 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 49 2250S)**. Sen. Hatchett (50th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 5-4.

Sen. Bearden (30th), Sen. Dolezal (27th), Sen. Hatchett (50th), Sen. Payne (54th), and Sen. Still voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. James (28th), Sen. Kemp (38th), Sen. Halpern (39th), and Sen. Parent (44th) voted against the motion.

Committee Recommendation: SB 124 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 49 2250S)

Chairman Hickman (4th) adjourned the meeting at 1:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/
Sen. Billy Hickman, 4th, Chairman

/s/
Sophia Bhalla, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Education and Youth
Monday, March 3, 2025

The Senate Committee on Education and Youth met on Monday, March 3, 2025 at 8:00 a.m. in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Billy Hickman (4th), Chairman
Sen. Chuck Payne (54th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary
Sen. Timothy Bearden (30th)
Sen. Clint Dixon (45th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th), Ex-Officio *(Left Early)*
Sen. Sonya Halpern (39th)
Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th), Ex-Officio (*Arrived Late)*
Sen. Donzella James (28th) (*Arrived Late)*
Sen. RaShaun Kemp (38th)
Sen. Elena Parent (44th) *(Left Early)*
Sen. Ed Setzler (37th)
Sen. Shawn Still (48th) *(Left Early)*

Chairman Hickman (4th) called the meeting or order at 8:04 a.m.

SB 82 (Sen. Dixon, 45th, LC 49 2153)"Local Charter School Authorization and Support Act of 2025"; enact

The Chair recognized Sen. Dixon (45th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Dixon (45th) and Dr. Bonnie Holliday with the Georgia Charter Schools Association presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public. He recognized the following:

Testimony in favor of the Bill:
Zoe Adams, Dominion Purpose Academy
Latasha Adams, Dominion Purpose Academy
Matt Tyson, Tapestry Charter School
Artesius Miller, Utopian Academy for the Arts
China Cardicke, Petitioning Charter
Camela Morejo, Citizen

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:
None

NOTE: Sen. Hatchett (50th) arrived at 8:24 a.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Dolezal (27th) who made a motion that **SB 82 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 49 9003S).** Sen. Setzler (37th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 9-1.

Sen. Bearden (30th), Sen. Dixon (45th), Sen. Halpern (39th), Sen. Hatchett (50th), Sen. Kemp (38th), Sen. Parent (44th), Sen. Payne (54th), Sen. Setzler (37th), and Sen. Still (48th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Sims (12th) voted against the motion.

Committee Recommendation: SB 82 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 49 9003S)

SB 171 (Sen. Anavitarte, 31st, LC 61 0121) Quality Basic Education Act; State Board of Education to develop an advanced mathematics pathway; require

The Chair recognized Sen. Jason Anavitarte (31st) and Michael Sullivan, Executive Director of GeorgiaCAN, for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Anavitarte (31st) presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Still (48th) left at 8:33 a.m.

The Chair recognized Buzz Rightway with the Georgia Center for Opportunity to speak to the bill.

NOTE: Sen. Still (48th) returned at 8:43 a.m.
NOTE: Sen. James (28th) arrived at 8:55 a.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Hatchett (50th) who made a motion to **Amend SB 171** by inserting "and to teachers who instruct students in the advanced mathematics pathway." on line 32. Sen. Dolezal (27th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair recognized Sen. Setzler (37th) who made a motion that **SB 171 Do Pass by Substitute.** Sen. Kemp (38th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SB 171 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 49 2322S)

SB 93 (Sen. Kemp, 38th, LC 49 2164) "Georgia Early Literacy Act"; the three-cueing system from inclusion in high-quality instructional materials or structured literacy; prohibit

The Chair recognized Sen. Kemp (38th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Kemp (38th) and Missy Pursell, parent and educator, presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public. He recognized the following:

Testimony in favor of the Bill:
Chelsea Hutchings, Citizen
Maegan Swingle, Citizen
Representative Karen Lupton
Miranda Williams, ExcelinEd and ExcelinEd in Action

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:
None

NOTE: Sen. Still (48th) left at 8:55 a.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Payne (54th) who made a motion to **Amend SB 93** by inserting on line 30 after "(6)", "except as expressly agreed to by a non-verbal student's parent or guardian as part of such students individualized education program". Sen. Parent (44th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair recognized Sen. Halpern (39th) who made a motion that **SB 93 Do Pass by Substitute.** Sen. Parent (44th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SB 93 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 49 2323S)

NOTE: Sen. Dolezal left at 9:12 a.m.

SB 65 (Sen. Mallow, 2nd, LC 49 2031) Education; mandatory kindergarten for all children prior to entering into first grade; provide

The Chair recognized Sen. Derek Mallow (2nd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Mallow (2nd) and Missy Pursell, parent and educator, presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Payne (54th) left at 9:22 a.m.
NOTE: Sen. Payne (54th) returned at 9:25 a.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Bearden (30th) who made a motion to **Table SB 65**. Sen. Setzler (37th) seconded the motion. The motion failed by a vote of 2-8.

Sen. Bearden (30th) and Sen. Setzler (37th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Dixon (45th), Sen. Halpern (39th), Sen. Hatchett (50th), Sen. James (28th), Sen. Kemp (38th), Sen. Parent (44th), Sen. Payne (54th), and Sen. Sims (12th) voted against the motion.

The Chair recognized Sen. Setzler (37th) who made a motion to **Amend SB 65** by changing "fifth" to "sixth" on line 12, changing "five" to "six" on line 15, removing "to lower the age of compulsory school attendance from six years old to five years old" on lines 3 and 4, and removing Section 3 in its entirety and renumbering Sections 4 and 5 as 3 and 4 accordingly. Sen. Dolezal (27th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair indicated his preference that the adopted amendment be included in a perfected substitute.

The Chair recognized Sen. James (28th) who made a motion that SB 65 **Do Pass by Substitute.** Sen. Parent (44th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 8-2.

Sen. Dixon (45th), Sen. Halpern (39th), Sen. Hatchett (50th), Sen. James (28th), Sen. Kemp (38th), Sen. Parent (44th), Sen. Payne (54th), and Sen. Sims (12th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Bearden (30th) and Sen. Setzler (37th) voted against the motion.

Committee Recommendation: SB 65 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 49 2324S)

NOTE: Sen. Parent (44th) left at 9:42 a.m.

SB 295 (Sen. Anavitarte, 31st, LC 49 2271) State Board of Education; local school systems to maintain and publish a registry of all contracts worth more than $10,000.00; require

The Chair recognized Sen. Anavitarte (31st) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Anavitarte (31st) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair recognized Sen. Sims (12th) who made a motion that **SB 295 Do Pass (LC 49 2271)**. Sen. James (28th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SB 295 DO PASS (LC 49 2271)

Chairman Hickman (4th) adjourned the meeting at 9:46 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary

/s/
Sophia Bhalla, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Education and Youth
Wednesday, March 5, 2025

The Senate Committee on Education and Youth met on Wednesday, March 5, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Billy Hickman (4th), Chairman
Sen. Chuck Payne (54th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary
Sen. Timothy Bearden (30th)
Sen. Sonya Halpern (39th)
Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Emanuel Jones (10th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Donzella James (28th), Ex-Officio
Sen. RaShaun Kemp (38th)
Sen. Elena Parent (44th) *(Arrived Late)*

NOTE: Sen. Clint Dixon (45th), Ex-Officio, Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th), Ex-Officio, Sen. Ed Setzler (37th), and Sen. Shawn Still (48th) were absent.

NOTE: Sen. Emanuel Jones (10th) was appointed to the Senate Committee on Education and Youth, as an Ex-Officio member, by the Committee on Assignments for the meeting on March 5, 2025. A copy of the appointment letter is attached.

Chairman Hickman (4th) called the meeting or order at 3:02 p.m.

HB 81 (Rep. Ballard, 147th, LC 61 0036) Interstate Compact for School Psychologists; enter into

The Chair recognized Rep. Bethany Ballard (147th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Ballard (147th) presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Parent (44th) arrived at 3:12 p.m.

The Chair recognized Margaret Ciccarelli with PAGE to speak to the bill.

The Chair recognized Joseph (Jody) Barrow with the Professional Standards Commission to speak to the bill.

The Chair recognized Sen. Kemp (38th) who made a motion that **HB 81 Do Pass (LC 61 0036).** Sen. Hatchett (50th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair indicated that Sen. Larry Walker III (20th) would be the Senate sponsor.

Committee Recommendation: HB 81 DO PASS (LC 61 0036)

SB 54 (Sen. Jones, 10th, LC 39 4489) State Board of Education; establishment of a program and state-wide database relating to threats to safety made on or impacting school campuses; require

The Chair recognized Sen. Jones (10th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Jones (10th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair indicated that SB 54 would receive a hearing only.

The Chair recognized Deandrea Burr, citizen, to speak in opposition to SB 54.

Committee Recommendation: SB 54 (LC 49 1233) No Action Taken

Chairman Hickman (4th) adjourned the meeting at 3:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary

/s/
Sophia Bhalla, Recording Secretary

OFFICE OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
240 STATE CAPITOL
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334

BURT JONES
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

March 5, 2025

Mr. James Tripp
Secretary of the Senate
353 State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334

Secretary Tripp,

The Committee on Assignments has delegated to the President of the Senate the authority, under Rule 2-3.2 of the Rules of the Georgia Senate, to temporarily appoint ex-officio members of standing committees without further action by the Committee on Assignments.

Pursuant to that authority, I hereby appoint Senator Emanuel Jones as an ex-officio member of the Senate Education and Youth Committee for the committee meeting to be held on March 5, 2025. Such appointment shall expire upon the adjournment of the meeting.

The designated Senator shall count as a voting member of the Committee for purposes of determining whether a quorum is present at the meeting held on this date and may vote on any matter before the Committee.

Sincerely,

Lt. Governor Burt Jones
President of the Senate

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Education and Youth
Wednesday, March 12, 2025

The Senate Committee on Education and Youth met on Wednesday, March 12, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Billy Hickman (4th), Chairman
Sen. Chuck Payne (54th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary
Sen. Timothy Bearden (30th)
Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Sonya Halpern (39th)
Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th), Ex-Officio
Sen. RaShaun Kemp (38th)
Sen. Elena Parent (44th) *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Ed Setzler (37th) *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Shawn Still (48th)

NOTE: Sen. Clint Dixon (45th), Ex-Officio, and Sen. Donzella James (28th) were absent.

Chairman Hickman (4th) called the meeting or order at 11:05 a.m.

HB 105 (Rep. Wade, 9th, LC 49 1370-EC) Public officers and employees; increase indemnification award of certain state public school personnel in the event of death

The Chair recognized Sen. Hatchett (50th) to for the purpose of presenting the bill on behalf of Rep. Wade (9th). Sen. Hatchett (50th) presented the bill to the committee.

NOTE: Sen. Setzler (37th) arrived at 11:08 a.m.
NOTE: Sen. Parent (44th) arrived at 11:12 a.m.

The Chair recognized Robert Aycock with the Professional Association of Georgia Educators.

The Chair recognized Sen. Halpern (39th) who made a motion that **HB 105 Do Pass (LC 49 1370-EC).** Sen. Parent (44th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair indicated that Sen. Hatchett (50th) would be the Senate sponsor.

Committee Recommendation: HB 105 DO PASS (LC 49 1370-EC)

HB 235 (Rep. Townsend, 179th, LC 49 2305S) Georgia Supporting Living Donor Educators Act; enact

The Chair recognized Rep. Rick Townsend (179th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Townsend (179th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair recognized Sen. Bearden (30th) who made a motion that **HB 105 Do Pass (LC 49 2305S)**. Sen. Payne (54th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair indicated that Sen. John Albers (56th) would be the Senate sponsor.

Committee Recommendation: HB 235 DO PASS (LC 49 2305S)

Chairman Hickman (4th) adjourned the meeting at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary

/s/
Sophia Bhalla, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Education and Youth
Thursday, March 20, 2025

The Senate Committee on Education and Youth met on Thursday, March 20, 2025 at 8:00 a.m. in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Billy Hickman (4th), Chairman
Sen. Chuck Payne (54th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary
Sen. Timothy Bearden (30th)
Sen. Sonya Halpern (39th) *(Arrived Late) (Left Early)*
Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th), Ex-Officio *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. RaShaun Kemp (38th)
Sen. Elena Parent (44th)
Sen. Shawn Still (48th)

NOTE: Sen. Clint Dixon (45th), Ex-Officio, Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th), Ex-Officio, Sen. Donzella James (28th), and Sen. Ed Setzler (37th), were absent.

Chairman Hickman (4th) called the meeting or order at 8:07 a.m.

NOTE: Sen. Hatchett (50th) arrived at 8:13 a.m.

HB 307 (Rep. Ballard, 147th, LC 49 2352S) Quality Basic Education Act; students significantly at risk of not achieving grade level reading proficiency or with characteristics of dyslexia; include provisions

The Chair recognized Rep. Bethany Ballard (147th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Ballard (147th) presented the bill to the committee.

NOTE: Sen. Halpern (39th) arrived at 8:18 a.m.

The Chair recognized Dr. Claire Buck with the Georgia Association of Curriculum and Instructional Supervisors to speak to the bill.

The Chair recognized Sen. Halpern (39th) who made a motion that **HB 307 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 49 2352S).** Sen. Payne (54th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair indicated that Sen. Hickman (4th) would be the Senate sponsor.

Committee Recommendation: HB 307 DO PASS (LC 49 2352S)

NOTE: Vice-Chairman Payne (54th) assumed the Chair.

SR 237 (Sen. Hickman, 4th, LC 49 2055) Professional Standards Commission; provide recommendations to support the state's K-12 education workforce and teacher and school leader pipeline; urge

The Vice-Chair recognized Sen. Hickman (4th) for the purpose of presenting the resolution. Sen Hickman (4th) presented the resolution to the Committee.

The Vice-Chair recognized Joseph (Jody) Barrow with the Professional Standards Commission to speak to the bill.

The Vice-Chair recognized Margaret Ciccarelli with PAGE to speak to the bill.

The Vice-Chair recognized Sen. Kemp (38th) who made a motion that **SR 237 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 49 2353S).** Sen. Parent (44th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SR 237 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 49 2353S)

NOTE: Chairman Hickman (4th) resumed the Chair.

HB 371 (Rep. Corbett, 174th, LC 49 2236) Quality Basic Education Act; state's maximum authorization of capital outlay funding; provide for an increase

The Chair recognized Rep. John Corbett (174th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Corbett (174th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public. He recognized the following:

Testimony in favor of the Bill:
Caroline Fillcheck, Citizen
Hailey Bauer-Frank, Citizen

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:
None

The Chair recognized Sen. Bearden (30th) who made a motion that **HB 371 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 49 2329S).** Sen. Halpern (39th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair indicated that Sen. John F. Kennedy (18th) would be the Senate sponsor.

Committee Recommendation: HB 371 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 49 2329S)

Chairman Hickman (4th) adjourned the meeting at 9:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary

/s/
Sophia Bhalla, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Education and Youth
Tuesday, March 25, 2025

The Senate Committee on Education and Youth met on Tuesday, March 25, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. in Room 450 of the State Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Billy Hickman (4th), Chairman
Sen. Chuck Payne (54th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary
Sen. Timothy Bearden (30th)
Sen. Clint Dixon (45th), Ex-Officio (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th), Ex-Officio (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Sonya Halpern (39th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th), Ex-Officio (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Donzella James (28th)
Sen. RaShaun Kemp (38th)
Sen. Elena Parent (44th) *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Ed Setzler (37th)
Sen. Shawn Still (48th) (*Arrived Late*)

Chairman Hickman (4th) called the meeting or order at 3:02 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Halpern (39th) arrived at 3:04 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Hatchett (50th) arrived at 3:06 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Parent (44th) arrived at 3:09 p.m.

HB 37 (Rep. Leverett, 123rd, LC 49 1994) Education; require local school systems to notify employees regarding social security withholdings and eligibility for certain benefits

The Chair recognized Sen. Setzler (37th) for the purpose of presenting the bill on behalf of Rep. Leverett (123rd). Sen. Setzler (37th) presented the bill to the committee.

NOTE: Sen. Still (48th) arrived at 3:10 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Dixon (45th) arrived at 3:21 p.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Still (49th) who made the motion to **Amend HB 37** by inserting "to provide for the payment of the costs of health insurance coverage for family members of local board of education members;" in the title of the bill and inserting new language in Section 1. Sen. Hatchett (50th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 8-2.

Sen. Bearden (30th), Sen. Dixon (45th), Sen. Kemp (38th), Sen. Hatchett (50th), Sen. Halpern (39th), Sen. Parent (42nd), Sen. Payne (54th), and Sen. Still (48th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. James (35th) and Sen. Sims (12th) voted against the motion.

The Chair indicated his preference that the adopted amendment be included in a perfected substitute.

The Chair recognized Robert Aycock with PAGE to speak to the bill.

The Chair recognized Sen. Still (48th) who made a motion that **HB 37 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 61 0251S)**. Sen. Hatchett (50th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 9-2.

Sen. Bearden (30th), Sen. Dixon (45th), Sen. Halpern (39th), Sen. Hatchett (50th), Sen. Kemp (38th), Sen. Parent (44th), Sen. Payne (54th), Sen. Setzler (37th), and Sen. Still (48th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. James (28th) and Sen. Sims (12th) voted against the motion.

The Chair indicated that Sen. Setzler (37th) would be the Senate sponsor.

Committee Recommendation: HB 37 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 61 0251S)

HB 200 (Rep. Bazemore, 69th, LC 61 0193S) State Board of Education; establish a three-year pilot immersive writing program for eligible public elementary schools; provide

The Chair recognized Rep. Debra Bazemore (69th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Bazemore (69th) presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Dolezal (27th) arrived at 3:40 p.m.

The Chair recognized Kade Cullefer with Troutman Strategies to speak to the bill.

Sen. Hatchett (50th) made a motion that **HB 200 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 62 0204S)**. Sen. Elena Parent (44th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 10-2.

Sen. Bearden (30th), Sen. Dixon (45th), Sen Halpern (39th), Sen. Hatchett (50th), Sen. James (28th), Sen. Kemp (38th), Sen. Parent (44th), Sen. Payne (54th), Sen. Setzler (37th), and Sen. Still (48th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Dolezal (27th) and Sen. Sims (12th) voted against the motion.

The Chair indicated that Sen. John F. Kennedy (18th) would be the Senate sponsor.

Committee Recommendation: HB 200 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 62 0204S)

HB 451 (Rep. Cannon, 172nd, LC 61 0144S) Quality Basic Education Act; local boards shall be authorized to provide instruction in hunting safety in grades six through 12; provide

The Chair recognized Rep. Chas Cannon (172nd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Cannon (172nd) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair recognized Sen. Bearden (30th) who made a motion that **HB 451 Do Pass (LC 61 0144S)**. Sen. Kemp (38th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair indicated that Sen. Lee Anderson (24th) would be the Senate sponsor.

Committee Recommendation: HB 451 DO PASS (LC 61 0144S)

Chairman Hickman (4th) adjourned the meeting at 4:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary

/s/
Sophia Bhalla, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Education and Youth
Thursday, March 27, 2025

The Senate Committee on Education and Youth met on Thursday, March 27, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. in Room 450 of the State Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Billy Hickman (4th), Chairman
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary
Sen. Timothy Bearden (30th) *(Left Early)*
Sen. Max Burns (23rd), Ex-Officio
Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th), Ex-Officio *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Sonya Halpern (39th)
Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th), Ex-Officio *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Donzella James (28th)
Sen. RaShaun Kemp (38th)
Sen. Elena Parent (44th)
Sen. Randy Robertson (29th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Ed Setzler (37th) *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Shawn Still (48th)

NOTE: Sen. Chuck Payne (54th), Vice-Chairman, Sen. Clint Dixon (45th), Ex-Officio were absent.

NOTE: Sen. Max Burns (23rd) and Sen. Randy Robertson (29th) were appointed to the Senate Committee on Education and Youth, as Ex-Officio members, by the Committee on Assignments for the meeting on March 27, 2025. Copies of the appointment letters are attached.

Chairman Hickman (4th) called the meeting or order at 4:28 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Hatchett (50th) arrived at 4:29 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Setzler (37th) arrived at 4:34 p.m.

HB 127 (Rep. Cox, 28th, LC 49 2020) Education; number of accumulated sick leave days for teachers and other school personnel; increase from three to five

The Chair recognized Sen. Burns (23rd) for the purpose of presenting the bill on behalf of Rep. Cox (28th). Sen. Burns (23rd) presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Dolezal (27th) arrived at 4:40 p.m.

The Chair recognized Rep. Brent Cox (28th) to speak to the bill.

The Chair recognized Sen. Kemp (38th) who made a motion to **Table HB 127**. Sen. James (28th) seconded the motion. The motion failed by a vote of 5-6.

Sen. Halpern (39th), Sen. James (28th), Sen. Kemp (38th), Sen. Parent (44th), and Sen. Sims (12th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Bearden (30th), Sen. Dolezal (27th), Sen. Hatchett (50th), Sen. Robertson (29th), Sen. Setzler (37th), and Sen. Still (48th) voted against the motion.

The Chair recognized Sen. Kemp (38th) to **Amend HB 127** by replacing "antiracism" with "Antiracism" on line 46. Sen. Hatchett (50th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair recognized Sen. Setzler (37th) who made a motion that **HB 127 Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Bearden (30th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 6-5.

Sen. Bearden (30th), Sen. Dolezal (27th), Sen. Hatchett (50th), Sen. Robertson (29th), Sen. Setzler (37th), and Sen. Still (48th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Kemp (38th), Sen. Parent (44th), Sen. Halpern (39th), Sen. Sims (12th) and Sen. James (28th) voted against the motion.

The Chair indicated that Sen. Burns (23rd) would be the Senate sponsor.

Committee Recommendation: HB 127 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 61 0259S)

NOTE: Sen. Bearden (30th) left at 4:57 p.m.

SR 301 (Sen. Davenport, 17th, LC 55 0564) Senate Rosenwald Schools Study Committee; create

The Chair recognized Sen. Gail Davenport (17th) for the purpose of presenting the resolution. Sen. Davenport (17th) presented the resolution to the Committee.

Sen. Ed Setzler (37th) made a motion that **SR 301 Do Pass (LC 55 0564)**. Sen. Halpern (39th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SR 301 DO PASS (LC 55 0564)

SB 253 (Sen. Halpern, 39th, LC 49 2202) State Board of Education; establish a three-year pilot robotics program for eligible public schools; provide

The Chair indicated that SB 253 would receive a hearing only.

The Chair recognized Sen. Halpern (39th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Halpern (39th) presented the bill to the Committee.

Committee Recommendation: SB 253 (LC 49 2202) No Action Taken

Chairman Hickman (4th) adjourned the meeting at 5:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Secretary

/s/
Sophia Bhalla, Recording Secretary

OFFICE OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
240 STATE CAPITOL
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334

BURT JONES
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

3/27, 2025

Mr. James Tripp
Secretary of the Senate
353 State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334

Secretary Tripp,

The Committee on Assignments has delegated to the President of the Senate the authority, under Rule 2-3.2 of the Rules of the Georgia Senate, to temporarily appoint ex-officio members of standing committees without further action by the Committee on Assignments.

Pursuant to that authority, I hereby appoint Senator Max Burns of the 23rd District as an ex-officio member of the Education and Youth Committee for the committee meeting to be held on 3/27/2025. Such appointment shall expire upon the adjournment of the meeting.

The designated Senator shall count as a voting member of the Committee for purposes of determining whether a quorum is present at the meeting held on this date and may vote on any matter before the Committee.

Sincerely,

Lt. Governor Burt Jones
President of the Senate

OFFICE OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

240 STATE CAPITOL
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334

BURT JONES
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

3/27, 2025

Mr. James Tripp
Secretary of the Senate
353 State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334

Secretary Tripp,

The Committee on Assignments has delegated to the President of the Senate the authority, under Rule 2-3.2 of the Rules of the Georgia Senate, to temporarily appoint ex-officio members of standing committees without further action by the Committee on Assignments.

Pursuant to that authority, I hereby appoint Senator Randy Robertson of the 29th District as an ex-officio member of the Education and Youth Committee for the committee meeting to be held on 3/27/2025. Such appointment shall expire upon the adjournment of the meeting.

The designated Senator shall count as a voting member of the Committee for purposes of determining whether a quorum is present at the meeting held on this date and may vote on any matter before the Committee.

Sincerely,

Lt. Governor Burt Jones
President of the Senate