THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS
2025-2026 ROSTER

Sen. Sam Watson, Chairman
District 11
P.O. Box 3914
Moultrie, GA 31776

Sen. Rick Williams, Vice-Chairman
District 25
1670 N. Jefferson Street
Milledgeville, GA 31061

Sen. Derek Mallow, Secretary
District 2
P.O. Box 14034
Savannah, GA 31416

Sen. Jason Anavitarte
District 31
421-F State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334

Sen. Max Burns, Ex-Officio
District 23
P.O. Box 203
Sylvania, GA 30467

Sen. Jason Esteves, Ex-Officio
District 35
2275 Marietta Blvd NW
Suite 270-180
Atlanta, GA 30318

Sen. Steve Gooch, Ex-Officio
District 51
P.O. Box 600
Dahlonega, GA 30533

Sen. Marty Harbin
District 16
215 Greencastle Road
Tyrone, GA 30290

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

Sen. Kim Jackson, Ex-Officio
District 41
P.O. Box 1411
Pine Lake, GA 30072

Sen. Harold Jones II, Ex-Officio
District 22
437 Walker Street
Augusta, GA 30901

Sen. John F. Kennedy, Ex-Officio
District 18
321 State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334

Sen. Randy Robertson, Ex-Officio
District 29
P.O. Box 62
Cataula, GA 31804

Sen. Brian Strickland
District 42
P.O. Box 1895
McDonough, GA 30253

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Ethics
Tuesday, February 25, 2025

The Senate Committee on Ethics met on Tuesday, February 25, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Sam Watson (11th), Chairman
Sen. Rick Williams (25th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Derek Mallow (2nd), Secretary
Sen. Jason Anavitarte (31st) *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Max Burns (23rd), Ex-Officio *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Jason Esteves (35th), Ex-Officio *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Marty Harbin (16th)
Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th) *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Kim Jackson (41st), Ex-Officio
Sen. Harold Jones II (22nd), Ex-Officio *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. John F. Kennedy (18th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Randy Robertson (29th), Ex-Officio *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Shawn Still (48th), Ex-Officio

NOTE: Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Ex-Officio, and Sen. Brian Strickland (42nd) were absent.

NOTE: Sen. Shawn Still (48th) was appointed to the Senate Committee on Ethics, as an Ex-Officio member, by the Committee on Assignments for the meeting held on February 25, 2025. A copy of the letter of appointment is attached.

Chairman Watson (11th) called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

The Chair opened with the adoption the Committee Rules. The Chair recognized Sen. Jackson (41st) who made a motion to **Adopt** the rules as presented. Sen. Williams (25th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

NOTE: Sen. Watson (11th) ceded the Chair to Sen. Williams (25th).

SB 199 (Sen. Watson, 11th, LC 47 3331) State Ethics Commission; shall not accept or reject complaints made against candidates 60 days prior to an election; provide

The Chair recognized Sen. Watson (11th) to present the bill. Sen. Watson (11th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for public comment and recognized the following:

Testimony in favor of the Bill:
Garland Favorito, VoterGA
Rusi Patel, GA Municipal Association

ACCG
Noelle Kahaian, GA House Representative

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:
None

The Chair recognized Sen. Mallow (2nd) who made a motion that **SB 199 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 47 3472S)**. Sen. Jackson (41st) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SB 199 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 47 3472S)

NOTE: Sen. Jones II (22nd) and Sen. Robertson (29th) arrived at 9:10 a.m.

NOTE: Sen. Watson (11th) resumed the Chair.

SB 175 (Sen. Robertson, 29th, LC 56 0270) Elections and Primaries; use of ranked-choice voting; prohibit

The Chair recognized Sen. Robertson (29th) to present the bill. Sen. Robertson (29th) presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Burns (23rd) and Sen. Esteves (35th) arrived at 9:15 a.m.

NOTE: Sen. Anavitarte (31st) arrived at 9:18 a.m.

The Chair opened the floor for questions and debate.

The Chair opened the floor for public comment and recognized the following:

Testimony in favor of the Bill:
Garland Favorito, VoterGA

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:
Scot Turner, Eternal Vigilance Action
Ben Rowley, Better Ballot Georgia

The Chair recognized Sen. Kennedy (18th) who made a motion that **SB 175 Do Pass (LC 56 0270)**. Sen. Anavitarte (31st) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 9-2.

Sen. Anavitarte (31st), Sen. Burns (23rd), Sen. Harbin (16th), Sen. Jones II (22nd), Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Mallow (2nd), Sen. Robertson (29th), Sen. Shawn Still (48th), and Sen. Williams (25th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Esteves (35th) and Sen. Jackson (41st) voted in opposition to the motion.

Committee Recommendation: SB 175 DO PASS (LC 56 0270)

SB 177 (Sen. Anavitarte, 31st, LC 47 3363) Government Transparency and Campaign Finance; transparency in foreign funded political activities within the state; provide

The Chair recognized Sen. Anavitarte (31st) to present the bill. Sen. Anavitarte (31st) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for questions and debate.

The Chair opened the floor for public comment and recognized the following:

Testimony in favor of the Bill:
Garland Favorito, VoterGA

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:
Don Kackney

The Chair recognized Sen. Williams (25th) who made a motion that **SB 177 Do Pass (LC 47 3363)**. Sen. Robertson (29th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

NOTE: Sen. Jackson (41st) and Sen. Jones II (22nd) left at 9:57 a.m.

Committee Recommendation: SB 177 DO PASS (LC 47 3363)

NOTE: Sen. Jackson (41st) and Sen. Jones II (22nd) returned at 10:01 a.m.
NOTE: Sen. Mallow (2nd) left at 10:02 a.m.
NOTE: Sen. Hatchett (50th) arrived at 10:05 a.m.
NOTE: Sen. Mallow (2nd) returned at 10:05 a.m.

SB 212 (Sen. Still, 48th, LC 47 9002) "Quality Basic Education Act,"; disclosure of public student directory information to political candidates or persons or groups acting on their behalf; prohibit

The Chair recognized Sen. Still (48th) to present the bill. Sen. Still (48th) presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Burns (23rd) left at 10:18 a.m.

The Chair opened the floor for questions and debate.

NOTE: Sen. Burns (23rd) returned at 10:22 a.m.

The Chair opened the floor for public comment and recognized the following:

Testimony in favor of the Bill:

None

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:
Don Kackney

The Chair recognized Sen. Anavitarte (31st) who made a motion that **SB 212 Do Pass (LC 47 9002)**. Sen. Williams (25th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 9-3.

Sen. Anavitarte (31st), Sen. Burns (23rd), Sen. Harbin (16th), Sen. Hatchett (50th) Sen. Jones II (22nd), Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Robertson (29th), Sen. Still (48th), and Sen. Williams (25th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Esteves (35th), Sen. Jackson (41st), and Sen. Mallow (2nd) voted in opposition to the motion.

Committee Recommendation: SB 212 DO PASS (LC 47 9002)

Chairman Watson (11th) adjourned the meeting at 10:37 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/
Sen. Derek Mallow (2nd), Secretary

/s/
Jenna Purpura, Recording Secretary

Rules
Senate Committee on Ethics
2025-2026

As used in these rules, the term "ethics matter" shall mean any matter within the Committee that relates to a violation of Part Four of Section One of the Rules of the Senate.

The following rules shall govern the Committee proceedings on matters that are not ethics matters:

1. These Committee Rules of Operations shall be consistent with Senate Rule 2-1.5 regarding the establishment of Rules of Operations.
2. The quorum of the Committee shall be seven (7) members.
3. The Chair shall determine which bills and resolutions are to be considered, and the order in which said measures are considered. No motion that the Committee recommends (Do Pass, Do Not Pass, etc.) shall be in order until the Chair has stated that such a motion will be entertained. The Chair shall have the authority and discretion to call a bill, resolution, substitute, or amendment for debate and explanation only.
4. The Chair shall have the authority to create one or more subcommittees to consider bills, resolutions or other matters referred to the committee and make referrals to such subcommittees for study and recommendations in a manner consistent with the Rules of the Senate. Such subcommittees in turn shall make recommendations on such measures to the full committee at such time as shall be designated by the Chair.
5. The committee shall only consider amendments or substitutes received twenty-four (24) hours before a committee meeting. This requirement may be waived by the Chair.
6. The author of the bill/resolution must write a letter to the chairperson one week prior to a Committee meeting requesting it to be heard by the committee. This requirement may be waived by the Chair.
7. The Committee shall convene, recess, and adjourn upon the order of the Chair.
8. Public comments may be heard on any bill before the Committee at the discretion of the Chair and time limits on those comments will be determined as circumstances warrant.
9. During Committee meetings, Committee members and those in the audience shall turn off or place in silent mode all cell phones, pagers, and other similar devices.
10. A bill or resolution will be considered only after the primary author or other legislator whom he or she may designate is given an opportunity to appear and be heard. The primary author shall be the legislator whose signature appears first on the list of authors on the bill back.
11. Any member(s) of the Committee who disagrees with the majority report of the Committee shall be privileged to file a minority report if they so desire. Such report shall be filed in accordance with the Rules of the Senate.
12. The Chair may present to the Committee a proposed change in these rules at any time. Any other member proposing a change in these rules shall provide written notice of the proposed change to the Chair and Secretary at least 72 hours before presenting any proposed change to the Committee.
13. These rules may be amended upon a motion duly made and subsequently approved by two/thirds of the members of the Committee.

OFFICE OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
240 STATE CAPITOL
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334

BURT JONES
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

February 25, 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 Shawn Still as an ex-officio member of the Senate Ethics Committee for the committee meeting to be held on February 25, 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 Ethics
Thursday, February 27, 2025

The Senate Committee on Ethics met on Thursday, February 27, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Sam Watson (11th), Chairman
Sen. Rick Williams (25th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Max Burns (23rd), Ex-Officio
Sen. Jason Esteves (35th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Ex-Officio *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Marty Harbin (16th) *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th)
Sen. Harold Jones II (22nd), Ex-Officio *(Arrived Late)*

NOTE: Sen. Derek Mallow (2nd), Secretary, Sen. Jason Anavitarte (31st), Sen. Kim Jackson (41st), Ex-Officio, Sen. John F. Kennedy (18th), Ex-Officio, Sen. Randy Robertson (29th), Ex-Officio, and Sen. Brian Strickland (42nd) were absent.

Chairman Watson (11th) called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Jones II (22nd) arrived at 5:04 p.m.

SB 214 (Sen. Burns, 23rd, LC 47 3286) Elections and Primaries; electors to cast physical absentee on-request ballots as an alternative to using other authorized means of casting in-person votes; authorize

NOTE: Sen. Gooch (51st) arrived at 5:08 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Harbin (16th) arrived at 5:10 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Hatchett (50th) returned at 5:10 p.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Max Burns (23rd) to present the bill and announced that it would be a hearing only. Sen. Max Burns (23rd) presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Hatchett (50th) left at 5:26 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Hatchett (50th) returned at 5:42 p.m.

The Chair opened the floor for questions and debate.

NOTE: Sen. Gooch (51st) left at 6:10 p.m.

The Chair opened the floor for public comment and recognized the following:

NOTE: Sen. Gooch (51st) returned at 6:18 p.m.

Testimony in favor of the Bill:
Stephen Aleshize, GA Resident
Tamara Favorito, VoterGA
Garland Favorito, VoterGA
Dr. Jan Johnson, SEB

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:
Cindy Battles, People Agenda
Rachel Lastinger, ACLU Georgia
Tate Fall, Cobb County Elections
Kristen Nabers, All Voting is Local Action

Committee Recommendation: SB 214 (LC 47 3286) No action was taken

Chairman Watson (11th) adjourned the meeting at 6:29 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/
Sen. Sam Watson (11th), Chairman

/s/
Jenna Purpura, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Ethics
Wednesday, March 12, 2025

The Senate Committee on Ethics met on Wednesday, March 12, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Rick Williams (25th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Derek Mallow (2nd), Secretary
Sen. Brandon Beach (21st), Ex-Officio
Sen Tim Bearden (30th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Max Burns (23rd), Ex-Officio
Sen. Jason Esteves (35th), Ex-Officio (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Russ Goodman (8th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Marty Harbin (16th)
Sen. Billy Hickman (4th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Kim Jackson (41st), Ex-Officio
Sen. Harold Jones II (22nd), Ex-Officio
Sen. Randy Robertson (29th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Shawn Still (48th), Ex-Officio

NOTE: Sen. Sam Watson (11th), Chairman, Sen. Jason Anavitarte (31st), Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Ex-Officio, Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th), Sen. John F. Kennedy (18th), Ex-Officio, and Sen. Brian Strickland (42nd) were absent.

NOTE: Sen. Brandon Beach (21st), Sen Tim Bearden (30th), Sen. Russ Goodman (8th) Sen. Billy Hickman (4th), and Sen. Shawn Still (48th) were appointed to the Senate Committee on Ethics, as Ex-Officio members, by the Committee on Assignments for the meeting held on March 12, 2025. Copies of the letters of appointment are attached.

Vice-Chairman Williams (25th) called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

HB 414 (Rep. Jones, 25th, LC 47 3421S) Elections; "person" to include certain nonresidents; revise definition

The Vice-Chair recognized Rep. Todd Jones (25th) to present the bill. Rep. Jones (25th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Vice-Chair opened the floor for discussion.

The Vice-Chair recognized Sen. Burns (23rd) who made a motion that **HB 414 Do Pass (LC 47 3421S)**. Sen. Harbin (16th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: HB 414 DO PASS (LC 47 3421S)

NOTE: Sen. Esteves (35th) arrived at 9:11 a.m.

HB 426 (Rep. New, 40th, LC 47 3367) Courts; nonpartisan election of magistrates; provide

The Vice-Chair recognized Rep. Kimberly New (40th) to present the bill. Rep. New (40th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Vice-Chair opened the floor for discussion.

The Vice-Chair opened the floor for public comment and recognized the following to speak:

Testimony in favor of the Bill:
Angela Langard, CPCJ
Brendan Murphy, CMCJ
Eric Ferguson, GA Resident
Kevin Holder, CPCJ

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:
None

The Vice-Chair recognized Sen. Robertson (29th) who made a motion that **HB 426 Do Pass (LC 47 3367)**. Sen. Jackson (41st) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 10-2.

Sen. Beach (21st), Sen. Bearden (30th), Sen. Goodman (8th), Sen. Hickman (4th), Sen. Still (48th) Sen. Robertson (29th), Sen. Burns (23rd), Sen. Mallow (2nd), Sen. Jackson (41st) and Sen. Harbin (16th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Esteves (35th) and Sen. Jones II (22nd) voted in opposition to the motion.

Committee Recommendation: HB 426 DO PASS (LC 47 3367)

The Vice-Chair announced there were two caucus applications submitted and noted them as follows:

Mental Health Caucus
Senate Dekalb County Delegation Caucus

The Vice-Chair recognized Sen. Burns (23rd) who made a motion to approve all submitted caucus applications. Sen. Esteves (35th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Vice-Chairman Williams (25th) adjourned the meeting at 9:17 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/
Sen. Derek Mallow (2nd), Secretary

/s/
Jenna Purpura, Recording Secretary

OFFICE OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

240 STATE CAPITOL
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334

BURT JONES
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

3/12, 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 Brandon Beach of the 21st District as an ex-officio member of the Senate Ethics Committee for the committee meeting to be held on 3/12/2025. 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

3/12, 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 Tim Bearden of the 30th District as an ex-officio member of the Senate Ethics Committee for the committee meeting to be held on 3/12/2025. 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

3/12, 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 Russ Goodman of the 8th District as an ex-officio member of the Senate Ethics Committee for the committee meeting to be held on 3/12/2025. 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

3/12, 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 Billy Hickman of the 4th District as an ex-officio member of the Senate Ethics Committee for the committee meeting to be held on 3/12/2025. 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

3/12, 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 Shawn Still of the 48th District as an ex-officio member of the Senate Ethics Committee for the committee meeting to be held on 3/12/2025. 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 Ethics
Tuesday, March 25, 2025

The Senate Committee on Ethics met on Tuesday, March 25, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Sam Watson (11th), Chairman
Sen. Rick Williams (25th), Vice-Chairman *(Arrived Late) (Left Early)*
Sen. Derek Mallow (2nd), Secretary
Sen. Jason Anavitarte (31st) *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Max Burns (23rd), Ex-Officio *(Left Early)*
Sen. Jason Esteves (35th), Ex-Officio *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Ex-Officio
Sen. Marty Harbin (16th) *(Left Early)*
Sen. Kim Jackson (41st), Ex-Officio *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Harold Jones II (22nd), Ex-Officio *(Arrived Late) (Left Early)*
Sen. Brian Strickland (42nd) *(Left Early)*

NOTE: Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th), Sen. John F. Kennedy (18th), Ex-Officio, and Sen. Randy Robertson (29th), Ex-Officio, were absent.

Chairman Watson (11th) called the meeting to order at 2:22 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Jackson (41st) arrived at 2:25 p.m.

SB 214 (Sen. Burns, 23rd, LC 47 3286) Elections and Primaries; electors to cast physical absentee on-request ballots as an alternative to using other authorized means of casting in-person votes; authorize

The Chair recognized Sen. Burns (23rd) to present the bill and announced that it would be a hearing only. Sen. Burns (23rd) presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Williams (25th) and Sen. Jones II (22nd) arrived at 2:31 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Anavitarte (31st) arrived at 2:33 p.m.

The Chair opened the floor for questions and debate.

NOTE: Sen. Jones II (22nd) left early at 2:57 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Strickland (42nd) left early at 2:58 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Williams (25th) left at 3:01 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Mallow (2nd) left at 3:07 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Burns (23rd) left early at 3:09 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Mallow (2nd) returned at 3:09 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Williams (25th) returned at 3:25 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Anavitarte (31st) left early at 3:26 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Esteves (35th) left at 3:51 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Esteves (35th) returned at 3:53 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Harbin (16th) left at 3:58 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Williams (25th) left early at 4:01 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Jackson (41st) left 4:05 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Jackson (41st) returned at 4:09 p.m.

The Chair opened the floor for public comment and recognized the following:

Testimony in favor of the Bill:
Brad Carver, GA Republican Party
Victoria Cruz, GA Resident
Marci McCarthy, DeKalb GOP
Kevin Muldowny, GA Resident
Lucia Frazier, GA Resident
Autumn Miller, GA Resident
Jospeh Kirk, Gaureo
Tamara Favorito, VoterGA
Garland Favorito, VoterGA
Liz Throop, Coalition Good Governance
Cindy Battles, People Agenda
Ginger Bradshaw, Grassroots voter
Natalie Crawford, GA Resident
Julie Adams, GA Resident
Chris Hayden, Fulton County Resident
Holly Kesler, GA Resident

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:
Rachel Lastinger, ACLU Georgia
Michael Beach, GA Resident
Amy Leventhal, GA Resident
Janet Grant, peoples Agenda
Marla Tepper, GA Resident
Marilyn Karwoski, GA Resident
Stephanie Ali, Georgians for Truth Org
Gail Lee, GA Resident
Juliet Hope, GA Resident
Joey McKinney, Georgia Values Action

Committee Recommendation: SB 214 (LC 47 3286) No action was taken

Chairman Watson (11th) adjourned the meeting at 4:16 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/
Sen. Sam Watson (11th), Chairman

/s/
Jenna Purpura, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Ethics
Wednesday, March 26, 2025

The Senate Committee on Ethics met on Wednesday, March 26, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Sam Watson (11th), Chairman
Sen. Rick Williams (25th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Derek Mallow (2nd), Secretary
Sen. Jason Anavitarte (31st) *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Max Burns (23rd), Ex-Officio
Sen. Jason Esteves (35th), Ex-Officio *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Ex-Officio
Sen. Russ Goodman (8th)
Sen. Marty Harbin (16th)
Sen. Kim Jackson (41st), Ex-Officio
Sen. Harold Jones II (22nd), Ex-Officio *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. John F. Kennedy (18th), Ex-Officio *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Randy Robertson (29th), Ex-Officio *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Brian Strickland (42nd)

NOTE: Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th) was absent.

NOTE: Sen. Russ Goodman (8th) was appointed to the Senate Committee on Ethics, as an Ex-Officio member, by the Committee on Assignments for the meeting held on March 26, 2025. A copy of the letter of appointment is attached.

Chairman Watson (11th) called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

SB 214 (Sen. Burns, 23rd, LC 47 3286) Elections and Primaries; electors to cast physical absentee on-request ballots as an alternative to using other authorized means of casting in-person votes; authorize

The Chair recognized Sen. Burns (23rd) to present the bill. Sen. Burns (23rd) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair recognized Sen. Gooch (51st) made a motion that **SB 214 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 47 3679S).** Sen. Harbin (16th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 7-1.

Sen. Burns (23rd), Sen. Goodman (8th), Sen. Gooch (51st), Sen. Harbin (16th), Sen. Jackson (41st), Sen. Strickland (42nd), and Sen. Williams (25th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Mallow (2nd) voted in opposition to the motion.

Committee Recommendation: SB 214 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 47 3679S)

The Chair recognized Sen. Gooch (51st) who made a motion to approve all submitted caucus applications. Sen. Harbin (16th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

NOTE: Sen. Robertson (29th) arrived at 5:04 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Esteves (35th) arrived at 5:06 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Jones II (22nd) and Sen. Kennedy (18th) arrived at 5:12 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Anavitarte (31st) arrived at 5:17 p.m.

HB 397 (Rep. Fleming, 114th, LC 47 3558S) Elections; allow municipalities to opt in to providing advance voting on Saturdays for municipal elections

The Chair recognized Rep. Tim Fleming (114th) to present the bill and announced it would be a hearing only. Rep. Fleming (114th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for public comment and recognized the following to speak:

Testimony in favor of the Bill:
Brad Carver, GA Republican Party
Charlene McGowan, GA Secretary of State
Blake Evans, GA Secretary of State
Victoria Cruz, GA Resident
Marci Mccarthy, Dekalb GOP
Kevin Muldowny, GA Resident
Lucia Frazier, GA Resident
Jason Frazier, GA Resident
Sharlene Alexander, GA Resident
Autumn Miller, GA Resident
Jospeh Kirk, Gaureo
Rebecca Anglin, GAVREO
Noah Beck, GAVREO
Nancy Boren, GAVREO
Tohnie Adams, GAVREO
Tamara Favorito, VoterGA
Garland Favorito, VoterGA
Liz Throop, Coalition Good Governance
Ginger Bradshaw, Grassroots voter
Natalie Crawford, GA Resident
Julie Adams, GA Resident
Chris Hayden, Fulton County Resident

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:
Rachel Lastinger, ACLU Georgia
Michael Beach, GA Resident
Tim Woodley, GA Resident
Cindy Battles, People Agenda

Marisa Pyle, GA Democracy Defense
Amy Leventhal, GA Resident
Janet Grant, peoples Agenda
Marla Tepper, GA Resident
Marilyn Karwoski, GA Resident
Stephanie Ali, Georgians for Truth Org
Gail Lee, GA Resident
Juliet Hope, GA Resident
Joey McKinney, Georgia Values Action
Holly Kesler, GA Resident
David Worley, GA Resident
Don Hackney, GA Resident
Michael Wakefield, GA Resident
Bethann Frillman, GA Resident
Betsy Shackelford, GA Resident
Kyle Gomez, GA Resident
Rosario Palacios, Common Cause Georgia
Nico Parra, GA Resident
Susan Radulovacki, Cobb Poll Manager
Tom Phan, Asian Americans Advancing Justice
Aunna Dennis, ProGeorgia
Shannon Ferguson, Georgia First
Peter Simmons, Protect Democracy Unite
Carter Bromley, GGC Democrats

NOTE: Sen. Kennedy (18th) and Sen. Robertson (29th) left early at 6:06 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Goodman (8th) and Sen. Strickland (42nd) left early at 6:16 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Burns (23rd), Sen. Gooch (51st), Sen. Jackson (41st), and Sen. Mallow (2nd) left early at 6:30 p.m.

Committee Recommendation: HB 397 (LC 47 3558S) No action was taken

Chairman Watson (11th) adjourned the meeting at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/
Sen. Sam Watson (11th), Chairman

/s/
Jenna Purpura, Recording Secretary

OFFICE OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
240 STATE CAPITOL
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334

BURT JONES
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

March 26, 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 Russ Goodman as an ex-officio member of the Senate Ethics Committee for the committee meeting to be held on March 26, 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 Ethics
Thursday, March 27, 2025

The Senate Committee on Ethics met on Thursday, March 27, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Sam Watson (11th), Chairman
Sen. Rick Williams (25th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Derek Mallow (2nd), Secretary *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Jason Anavitarte (31st)
Sen. Max Burns (23rd), Ex-Officio
Sen. Jason Esteves (35th), Ex-Officio *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Ex-Officio *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Marty Harbin (16th)
Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th)
Sen. Harold Jones II (22nd), Ex-Officio
Sen. Brian Strickland (42nd)

NOTE: Sen. Kim Jackson (41st), Ex-Officio, Sen. John F. Kennedy (18th), Ex-Officio, and Sen. Randy Robertson (29th), Ex-Officio, were absent.

Chairman Watson (11th) called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Mallow (2nd), Sen. Esteves (35th), and Sen. Gooch (51st) arrived at 7:46 p.m.

HB 397 (Rep. Fleming, 114th, LC 47 3558S) Elections; allow municipalities to opt in to providing advance voting on Saturdays for municipal elections

The Chair recognized Rep. Tim Fleming (114th) to present the bill. Rep. Fleming (114th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair recognized Sen. Mallow (2nd) who made a motion to **Table HB 397**. Sen. Esteves (35th) seconded the motion. The motion failed by a vote of 3-7.

Sen. Esteves (35th), Sen. Jones II (22nd), and Sen. Mallow (2nd) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Anavitarte (31st), Sen. Burns (23rd), Sen. Gooch (51st), Sen. Harbin (16th), Sen. Hatchett (50th), Sen. Strickland (42nd), and Sen. Williams (25th) voted in opposition to the motion.

The Chair recognized Sen. Burns (23rd) who made a motion that **HB 397 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 47 3701S).** Sen. Harbin (16th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 7-3.

Sen. Anavitarte (31st), Sen. Burns (23rd), Sen. Gooch (51st), Sen. Harbin (16th), Sen. Hatchett (50th), Sen. Strickland (42nd), and Sen. Williams (25th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Esteves (35th), Sen. Jones II (22nd), and Sen. Mallow (2nd) voted in opposition to the motion.

Committee Recommendation: HB 397 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 47 3701S)

The Chair announced there was five caucus applications submitted and noted them as follows:

Senate Fulton County Delegation Caucus
Senate Taiwan-USA Relations Caucus
Senate American Korean Friendship Caucus
Senate LGBTQ and Allies Caucus
Georgia Working Families Legislative Caucus

The Chair recognized Sen. Burns (23rd) who made a motion to approve all caucus applications. Sen. Jackson (41st) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Watson (11th) adjourned the meeting at 8:11 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/
Sen. Derek Mallow (2nd), Secretary

/s/
Jenna Purpura, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Ethics
Thursday, April 3, 2025

The Senate Committee on Ethics met on Thursday, April 3, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. in Room 310 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Sam Watson (11th), Chairman
Sen. Rick Williams (25th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Max Burns (23rd), Ex-Officio
Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th)
Sen. Kim Jackson (41st), Ex-Officio
Sen. Harold Jones II (22nd), Ex-Officio

NOTE: Sen. Derek Mallow (2nd), Secretary, Sen. Jason Anavitarte (31st), Sen. Jason Esteves (35th), Ex-Officio, Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Sen. Marty Harbin (16th), Sen. John F. Kennedy (18th), Ex-Officio, Sen. Randy Robertson (29th), Ex-Officio, and Sen. Brian Strickland (42nd) were absent.

Chairman Watson (11th) called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

Chairman Watson (11th) announced there was one caucus application submitted and noted them as follows:

Senate HBCU Caucus

The Chair recognized Sen. Jackson (41st) who made a motion to approve the submitted caucus application. Sen. Burns (23rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Watson (11th) adjourned the meeting at 2:07 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/
Sen. Sam Watson (11th), Chairman

/s/
Jenna Purpura, Recording Secretary