THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT
2025 ROSTER

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

Sen. Blake Tillery, Vice-Chairman
District 19
404 Durden Street
Vidalia, GA 30474

Sen. Randy Robertson, Secretary
District 29
P.O. Box 62
Cataula, GA 31804

Sen. John Albers, Ex-Officio
District 56
421-C State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334

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

Sen. Sally Harrell
District 40
P.O. Box 941365
Atlanta, GA 31141

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

Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick, Ex-Officio
District 32
2146 Roswell Road, Suite 108895
Marietta, GA 30062

Sen. Nikki Merritt
District 9
1911 Grayson Highway, Suite 8367
Grayson, GA 30017

Sen. Colton Moore, Ex-Officio
District 53
P.O. Box 1516
Trenton, GA 30752

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

Sen. Sheikh Rahman
District 5
P.O. Box 221
Lawrenceville, GA 30046

Sen. Kenya Wicks
District 34
P.O. Box 842
Fayetteville, GA 30214

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Government Oversight
Wednesday, February 12, 2025

The Senate Committee on Government Oversight met on Wednesday, February 12, 2025 at 5:30 PM in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Marty Harbin (16th), Chairman
Sen. Blake Tillery (19th), Vice-Chairman *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Randy Robertson (29th), Secretary
Sen. Timothy Bearden (30th)
Sen. Drew Echols (49th), Ex-Officio
Sen. RaShaun Kemp (38th)
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd), Ex-Officio *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Colton Moore (53rd), Ex-Officio
Sen. Kenya Wicks (7th)
Sen. Rick Williams (25th), Ex-Officio

NOTE: Sen. John Albers (56th), Ex-Officio, Sen. Sally Harrell (40th), Sen. Nikki Merritt (9th), Sen. Elena Parent (44th), and Sen. Sheikh Rahman (5th) were absent.

NOTE: Sen. Drew Echols (49th) and Sen. Rick Williams (25th) were appointed to the Senate Committee on Government Oversight, as Ex-Officio members, by the Committee on Assignments for the meeting held on February 12, 2025. A copy of the letter of appointment is attached.

Chairman Harbin (16th) convened the meeting at 5:32 PM.

NOTE: Sen. Moore (53rd) left at 5:34 PM.

Adoption of Committee Rules

The Chair presented the 2025 Committee Rules to the Committee.

The Chair recognized Sen. Kemp (38th), who made a motion that the Rules **Do Pass**. Sen. Wicks (34th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

NOTE: Sen. Moore (53rd) returned at 5:38 PM.
Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) arrived at 5:39 PM.
Sen. Tillery (19th) arrived at 5:43 PM.

SB 46 (Sen. Harbin, 16th, LC 60 0040): "Government Serves the People Act"; enact

NOTE: Sen. Harbin (16th) ceded the chair to Sen. Robertson (29th), Secretary.

The Chair recognized Sen. Harbin (16th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Harbin (16th) presented the bill to the committee.

NOTE: Sen. Harbin (16th) resumed the Chair.

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

Testimony neutral to the Bill:
Eric Johnson (Zoom), Barry Louder Milk Office
Cameron Fash, GTA

Testimony in favor of the Bill:
None

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:
None

The Chair opened the floor for debate.

The Chair recognized Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd), who made a motion that **SB 46 Do Pass (LC 60 0040)**. Sen. Kemp (38th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SB 46 DO PASS (LC 60 0040)

SB 96 (Sen. Echols, 49th, LC 60 0050-EC): Official Code of Georgia Annotated; provisions creating certain boards, panels, authorities, centers, commissions, committees, councils, task forces, and other such bodies; update and modernize

The Chair recognized Sen. Echols (49th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Echols (49th) presented the bill to the committee.

Testimony neutral to the Bill:
Linda Criblez, GEMA
Amy Doorman, Governor's Office

Testimony in favor of the Bill:
None

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:
None

The Chair opened the floor for debate.

The Chair recognized Sen. Robertson (29th), who made a motion that **SB 96 Do Pass (LC 60 0050-EC)**. Sen. Kemp (38th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SB 96 DO PASS (LC 60 0050-EC)

Chairman Harbin (16th) adjourned the meeting at 6:17 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/
Sen. Randy Robertson (29th), Secretary

/s/
Jenna Purpura, Recording Secretary

RULES
The Senate Committee on Government Oversight
2025 Legislative Session

1) Quorum of the Committee shall be Six (6) members.

2) The Chairman shall determine which cases or investigations shall be heard and the order in which said hearings are to commence.

3) The Committee will not hear a bill unless the Chairman receives a written request for a hearing from the author of the bill. Such a letter does not obligate the Chairman to hear the bill.

4) The Chairman shall have the authority to refer cases or investigations to subcommittee for study. Such subcommittees, in turn, shall have the authority to make recommendations on such cases to the full Committee.

5) The Committee shall convene, recess, put forward questions and adjourn upon order of the Chairman, subject to the Rules of the Senate.

6) Any member or members of the Committee who disagree with the majority report of the Committee shall be privileged to file a minority report.

7) At the discretion of the Chairman and subsequent to the meeting in which the rules are adopted, all amendments or substitute bills must be submitted to chairman at least 24 hours before adoption by the committee.

8) If a committee member moves on a House bill without a Senate sponsor, that committee member will be listed as the senate sponsor of the bill.

9) After adoption, these rules may be amended upon motion duly made, seconded, and subsequently approved by a two-thirds vote of the members of the Committee.

10) The Admin. of the Committee shall distribute a copy of these rules to all members of the Senate Government Oversight Committee.

11) Anyone who wishes to record the proceedings of a meeting shall make the request of the Chairman who will assign a location within the meeting room for the setup and operation of the recording equipment if space allows. Giving notice to the Chairman at least one hour prior to meeting start.

12) Where these rules are silent on a specific issue, the Rules of the Senate, as adopted, shall govern.

OFFICE OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
240 STATE CAPITOL
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334

BURT JONES
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

February 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 Rick Williams and Senator Drew Echols to serve as ex-officio members of the Senate Committee on Government Oversight for the committee meeting to be held on February 12, 2025. Such appointments shall expire upon the adjournment of the meeting.

The designated Senators shall count as voting members 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 Government Oversight
Wednesday, February 26, 2025

The Senate Committee on Government Oversight met on Wednesday, February 26, 2025 at 5:00 PM in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Marty Harbin (16th), Chairman
Sen. Randy Robertson (29th), Secretary *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Timothy Bearden (30th)
Sen. Sally Harrell (40th) *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Kim Jackson (41st), Ex-Officio
Sen. RaShaun Kemp (38th) *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd), Ex-Officio *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Nikki Merritt (9th) *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Colton Moore (53rd), Ex-Officio
Sen. Elena Parent (44th) *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Sheikh Rahman (5th)
Sen. Kenya Wicks (34th)
Sen. Rick Williams (25th), Ex-Officio

NOTE: Sen. John Albers (56th), Ex-Officio, and Sen. Blake Tillery (19th), Vice-Chairman, were absent.

NOTE: Sen. Kim Jackson (41st) and Sen. Rick Williams (25th) were appointed to the Senate Committee on Government Oversight, as Ex-Officio members, by the Committee on Assignments for the meeting held on February 26, 2025. Copies of the letters of appointment are attached.

Chairman Harbin (16th) convened the meeting at 6:31 PM.

NOTE: Sen. Robertson (29th) arrived at 6:32 PM.
Sen. Parent (44th) arrived at 6:32 PM.
Sen. Kemp (38th) arrived at 6:33 PM.
Sen. Harrell (40th) arrived at 6:39 PM.
Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) arrived at 6:39 PM.
Sen. Merritt (9th) arrived at 6:39 PM.

SB 117 (Sen. Williams, 25th, LC 46 1022): Public Officers and Employees; a misdemeanor offense for violations regarding complaints by public employees; provide

The Chair recognized Sen. Williams (25th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Williams (25th) presented the bill to the committee.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Robertson (29th) who made a motion to **Amend** by striking the word "may" and inserting with "shall" in its place on line 79 of the bill. Sen. Moore (53rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair recognized Sen. Robertson (29th) who made a motion that **SB 117 Do Pass by Substitute.** Sen. Moore (53rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 11-1.

Sen. Harrell (40th), Sen. Jackson (41st), Sen. Kemp (38th), Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd), Sen. Merritt (9th), Sen. Moore (53rd), Sen. Parent (44th), Sen. Rahman (5th), Sen. Robertson (29th), Sen. Wicks (34th), and Sen. Williams (25th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Bearden (30th) voted against the motion.

Committee Recommendation: SB 117 DO PASS BY SUBSITITUTE (LC 60 0112S)

SB 170 (Sen. Jackson, 41st, LC 56 0296): Georgia Interagency Council for the Homeless; create

The Chair recognized Sen. Jackson (41st) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Jackson (41st) 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:
Brian Nunez, SPLC

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:
None

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) who made a motion to **Amend** by inserting a "sunset date" of '12/31/2028' to the bill. Sen. Wicks (34th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair recognized Sen. Parent (44th) who made a motion to **Amend** by changing the date of "October 1, 2025" listed on line 79 to "December 1, 2026". Sen. Jackson (41st) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

The Chair recognized Sen. Parent (44th) who made a motion that **SB 170 Do Pass by Substitute.** Sen. Kemp (38th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 11-1.

Sen. Bearden (30th), Sen. Harrell (40th), Sen. Jackson (41st), Sen. Kemp (38th), Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd), Sen. Merritt (9th), Sen. Parent (44th), Sen. Rahman (5th), Sen. Robertson (29th), Sen. Wicks (34th), and Sen. Williams (25th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Moore (53rd) voted against the motion.

Committee Recommendation: SB 170 DO PASS BY SUBSITITUTE (LC 60 0123S)

Chairman Harbin (16th) adjourned the meeting at 7:24 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/
Sen. Randy Robertson (29th), Secretary

/s/
Jenna Purpura, Recording Secretary

OFFICE OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

240 STATE CAPITOL
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334

BURT JONES
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

2/26, 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 Kim Jackson of the 41st District as an ex-officio member of the Government Oversight Committee for the committee meeting to be held on 2/26/2025. 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,

BJ

Lt. Governor Burt Jones
President of the Senate

OFFICE OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
240 STATE CAPITOL
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334

BURT JONES
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

2/26, 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 Rick Williams of the 25th District as an ex-officio member of the Government Oversight Committee for the committee meeting to be held on 2/26/2025. 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 Government Oversight
Tuesday, March 18, 2025

The Senate Committee on Government Oversight met on Tuesday, March 18, 2025 at 6:00 PM in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Marty Harbin (16th), Chairman
Sen. Randy Robertson (29th), Secretary *(Arrived Late) (Left Early)*
Sen. Timothy Bearden (30th)
Sen. Russ Goodman (8th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd), Ex-Officio
Sen. Nikki Merritt (9th) *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Colton Moore (53rd), Ex-Officio *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Sheikh Rahman (5th) *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Kenya Wicks (34th)
Sen. Sam Watson (11th), Ex-Officio

NOTE: Sen. John Albers (56th), Ex-Officio, Sen. Blake Tillery (19th), Vice-Chairman, Sen. Sally Harrell (40th), Sen. RaShaun Kemp (38th), and Sen. Elena Parent (44th) were absent.

NOTE: Sen. Russ Goodman (8th) and Sen. Sam Watson (11th) were appointed to the Senate Committee on Government Oversight, as Ex-Officio members, by the Committee on Assignments for the meeting held on March 18, 2025. Copies of the letters of appointment are attached.

Chairman Harbin (16th) convened the meeting at 6:03 PM.

NOTE: Sen. Robertson (29th) arrived at 6:04 PM.
Sen. Rahman (5th) arrived at 6:04 PM.
Sen. Moore (53rd) arrived at 6:08 PM.
Sen. Merritt (9th) arrived at 6:09 PM.

HB 113 (Rep. McDonald III, 26th, LC 44 2899-EC) State government; prohibit the state or its agencies from purchasing goods from certain foreign countries or related entities

The Chair recognized Rep. Lauren McDonald III (26th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. McDonald III (26th) 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:
Garland Favarito, VoterGA
Tamara Favarito, VoterGA

Testimony opposition to the Bill:

None

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Robertson (29th) who made a motion that **HB 113 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 44 3152-ECS).** Sen. Moore (53rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 8-1.

Sen. Bearden (30th), Sen. Goodman (8th), Kirkpatrick (32nd), Sen. Moore (53rd), Sen. Rahman (5th), Sen. Robertson (29th), Sen. Wicks (34th), and Sen. Watson (11th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Merritt (9th) voted against the motion.

Committee Recommendation: HB 113 DO PASS BY SUBSITITUTE (LC 44 3152-ECS)

NOTE: Sen. Robertson (29th) left early at 6:13 PM.

HB 485 (Rep. Yearta, 152nd, LC 39 4672S) Official Code of Georgia Annotated; various provisions enacted prior to 2013 which are contingent upon funding and which remain unfunded; repeal

The Chair recognized Rep. Bill Yearta (152nd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Yearta (152nd) presented the bill to the committee.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Wicks (34th) who made a motion to **Amend** by changing the fine on line 334 from "$1,000.000" to "$1,000.00." Sen. Goodman (8th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

The Chair recognized Sen. Wicks (34th) who made a motion that **HB 485 Do Pass by Substitute.** Sen. Goodman (8th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: HB 485 DO PASS BY SUBSITITUTE (LC 39 4767S)

Chairman Harbin (16th) adjourned the meeting at 6:21 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/
Sen. Marty Harbin (16th), Chairman

/s/
Jenna Purpura, Recording Secretary

OFFICE OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

240 STATE CAPITOL
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334

BURT JONES
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

3/10/, 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 6th District as an ex-officio member of the Government Oversight Committee for the committee meeting to be held on 3/10/2025. 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

3/19/, 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 Government Oversight Committee for the committee meeting to be held on 3/19/2025. 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