THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
2025 ROSTER

Sen. Max Burns, Chairman
District 23
P.O. Box 203
Sylvania, GA 30467

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

Sen. Chuck Payne, Secretary
District 54
P.O. Box 1074
Dalton, GA 30722

Sen. Brandon Beach, Ex-Officio
District 21
3100 Brierfield Road
Alpharetta, GA 30004

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

Sen. Chuck Hufstetler
District 52
3 Orchard Spring Dr.
Rome, GA 30165

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

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

Sen. Nan Orrock
District 36
1070 Delaware Avenue SE
Atlanta, GA 30316

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

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

The Senate Committee on Higher Education met on Tuesday, February 18, 2025, at 3:30 p.m. in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Max Burns (23rd), Chairman
Sen. Billy Hickman (4th), Vice-Chair *(Arrived Late)*
Chuck Payne (54th), Secretary
Sen. Brandon Beach (21st), Ex-Officio
Sen. Sally Harrell (40th) *(Left Early)*
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd) *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Harold Jones II (22nd) *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Colton Moore (53rd)
Sen. Nan Orrock (36th)
Sen. Rick Williams (25th) *(Left Early)*

Chairman Burns (23rd) called the meeting to order at 3:43 p.m. and recognized Sen. Payne (54th) to lead the Committee in prayer.

NOTE: Sen. Hickman (4th) and Sen. Hufstetler (52nd) arrived at 3:44 p.m.

The Chair presented the Committee Rules. Sen. Hufstetler (52nd) made a motion to **Adopt** them as presented. Sen. Williams (25th) seconded the motion. The Rules were adopted unanimously.

SB 20 (Sen. Kirkpatrick, 32nd, LC 61 0051) Veterinarians; student loan repayment; who practice shelter medicine and in nonprofit pet sterilization clinics; provide; create the State Veterinary Education Board for Shelter Medicine and Pet Sterilization

NOTE: Sen. Harold Jones (22nd) arrived at 3:50 p.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd) to present the bill. Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) presented the bill to the Committee.

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

Testimony in Favor of the Bill:
Lisa Milot, UGA Professor
Dr. Spencer Johnston, UGA Veterinarian
Varsha Ramachandra, UGA Veterinarian Student

Testimony in Opposition to the Bill:
None

The Chair opened the floor for questions from the Committee.

Sen. Orrock (36th), Sen. Moore (53rd), Sen. Payne (54th), and the Chair asked questions. Dr. Johnston and Ms. Milot responded.

NOTE: Sen. Harrell (40th) left at 4:00 p.m.

Sen. Payne (54th) made a motion that **SB 20 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 61 0138S)**. Sen. Orrock (36th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 7-1.

Sen. Hickman (4th), Sen. Payne (54th), Sen. Beach (21st), Sen. Hufstetler (52nd), Sen. Jones (22nd), Sen. Orrock (36th), and Sen. Williams (25th) voted in favor of the motion.

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

Committee Recommendation: SB 20 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 61 0138S)

NOTE: Sen. Williams (25th) left at 4:16 p.m.

SB 85 (Sen. Brass, 6th, LC 49 2128) Grants for Foster Children; a grant program to provide grants to former foster youth who meet eligibility requirements, subject to specific appropriations; establish

The Chair recognized Sen. Matt Brass (6th) to present the bill. Sen. Brass (6th) presented the bill to the Committee and highlighted changes Georgia Student Finance had suggested.

The Chair opened the floor for questions from the Committee.

Sen. Beach (21st) and Sen. Orrock (36th) both expressed concerns with line 66.

The Chair asked a series of questions to which Sen. Brass (6th) responded.

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

Testimony in Favor of the Bill:
Lynn Riley, Georgia Student Finance
Devin Riley, Empowerment

Testimony in Opposition to the Bill:
None

Sen. Orrock (36th) made suggestions to change lines 113 and line 91. The Chair suggested Sen. Orrock (36th) work with the author on the proposed changes.

Sen. Beach (21st) made a motion to **Amend**:
Line 32 by striking “receiving”
Line 36 by adding “or” after “;”

Line 38 by adding “or” after “;”
Line 41 by adding “or” after “;”
Line 46 by adding “or” after “;”
Line 67 by changing “shall” to “may”

Sen. Orrock (36th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair called for a vote on the underlying bill. Sen. Moore (53rd) made a motion that **SB 85 Do Pass by Substitute.** Sen. Payne (54th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SB 85 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 61 0145S)

Chairman Burns (23rd) adjourned the meeting at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

s/s
Sen. Chuck Payne (54th), Secretary

s/s
Tarika Jackson, Recording Secretary

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
2025-2026 RULES

1. These Committee Rules of Operations shall be consistent with Senate Rule 2-1.5(d) regarding the establishment of Rules of Operation.

2. Quorum of the Committee shall be (5) members.

3. The Chairman shall have the authority to refer bills and resolutions to be considered and the order in which said measures are considered; the Chairman shall have the authority to call a bill, resolution, substitute or amendment for debate and explanation only.

4. The Chairman shall have the authority to refer bills and resolutions to subCommittees for study. Such subCommittees in turn shall have the authority to make recommendations on such measures to the full Committee at such time as shall be designated by the Chairman.

5. The Committee shall convene, recess and adjourn upon the order of the Chairman.

6. A bill or resolution will be considered only after presentation by its principal author or other legislator whom he/she may designate. The principal author shall be the legislator whose name first appears on the list of authors.

7. The Chairman reserves the right to delay action on substitutes and amendments not provided to the Chairman at least 24 hours prior to the hearing.

8. Any member or members of the Committee who disagree(s) with the majority report of the Committee shall be privileged to file a minority report if they so desire.

9. These rules may be amended upon a motion duly made and subsequently approved by two-thirds of the members of the Committee.

10. Where these rules are silent on a specific issue, the Rules of the Senate as adopted shall govern. (Senate Rule 2)

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

The Senate Committee on Retirement met on Tuesday, February 25, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. in Room 307 Coverdell Legislative Office Building. The following Committee members were in attendance:

Sen. Max Burns (23rd), Chairman
Sen. Billy Hickman (4th), Vice-Chair
Sen. Chuck Payne (54th), Secretary
Sen. Brandon Beach (21st), Ex-Officio
Sen. Sally Harrell (40th)
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd)
Sen. Harold Jones II (22nd) *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Colton Moore (53rd) *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Nan Orrock (36th)
Sen. Rick Williams (25th)

Chairman Burns (23rd) called the meeting to order at 3:16 p.m. and recognized Sen. Hickman (4th) to lead the Committee in prayer.

SB 149 (Sen. Hickman, 4th, LC 49 2116) Tuition Equalization Grants at Private Colleges and Universities; definition of approved school; revise

The Chair recognized Sen. Billy Hickman (4th) to present the bill. Sen. Hickman (4th) presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Moore (53rd) arrived at 3:17 p.m.

The Chair recognized Lynn Riley with Georgia Student Finance Commission to assist Sen. Hickman (4th) in answering questions from the Committee.

The Chair and Sen. Moore (53rd) asked a series of questions to which Sen. Hickman (4th) and Lynn Riley (GSF) responded.

Sen. Beach (21st) made a motion that **SB 149 Do Pass (LC 49 2116)**. Sen. Hufstetler (52nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 7-1.

Sen. Hickman (4th), Sen. Payne (54th), Sen. Beach (21st), Sen. Harrell (40th), Sen. Hufstetler (52nd), Sen. Orrock (36th), and Sen. Williams (25th) voted in favor of the motion.

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

Committee Recommendation: SB 149 DO PASS (LC 49 2116)

NOTE: Sen. Jones (22nd) arrived at 3:28 p.m.

SB 180 (Sen. Dixon, 45th, LC 49 2206) High Demand Apprenticeship Program; opportunities for apprenticeship sponsors to enter into apprenticeship program contracts with State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia; provide

The Chair recognized Sen. Clint Dixon (45th) to present the bill. Sen. Dixon (45th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for questions from the Committee.

Sen. Moore (53rd), Sen. Orrock (36th), and the Chair asked questions to which Sen. Dixon (45th) responded.

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

Testimony in Favor of the Bill:
Niles Dawson, Independent Contractors
Mark Peevy, Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG)

Testimony in Opposition to the Bill:
Brett Hunne, Citizen

The Chair opened the floor for questions from the Committee.

Sen. Orrock (36th), Sen. Beach (21st), Sen. Moore (53rd), and the Chair asked questions to which Mr. Hunne, Mr. Niles, Mr. Peevy, and Sen. Dixon (45th) responded.

The Chair recognized Sen. Hickman (4th) who made a motion that **SB 180 Do Pass (LC 49 2206)**. Sen. Williams (25th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 8-1.

Sen. Hickman (4th), Sen. Payne (54th), Sen. Beach (21st), Sen. Harrell (40th), Sen. Jones (22nd), Sen. Hufstetler (52nd), Sen. Orrock (36th), and Sen. Williams (25th) voted in favor of the motion.

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

Committee Recommendation: SB 180 DO PASS (LC 49 2206)

SB 193 (Sen. Brass, 6th, LC 61 0132) State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia; establish the adult workforce high school diploma program; authorize

The Chair recognized Sen. Matt Brass (6th) to present the bill. Sen. Brass (6th) presented the bill to the Committee. He also indicated that TCSG would like an end date added, and to strike lines 86-93.

The Chair opened the floor for questions from the Committee.

Sen. Beach (21st), Sen. Moore (53rd), and the Chair asked questions to which Sen. Brass (6th) responded.

Sen. Williams (25th) made a motion to **Amend** by striking lines 86-93. Sen. Hufstetler (52nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair called for the vote on the underlying bill. Sen. Hufstetler (52nd) made a motion that **SB 193 Do Pass by Substitute.** Sen. Beach (21st) seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Committee Recommendation: SB 193 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 61 0180S)

Chairman Burns (23rd) adjourned the meeting at 4:09 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

s/s
Sen. Chuck Payne (54th), Secretary

s/s
Tarika Jackson, Recording Secretary

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

The Senate Committee on Retirement met on Thursday, February 27, 2025, at 8:00 a.m. in Room 307 Coverdell Legislative Office Building. The following Committee members were in attendance:

Sen. Max Burns (23rd), Chairman
Sen. Billy Hickman (4th), Vice-Chair *(Left Early)*
Sen. Chuck Payne (54th), Secretary *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Sally Harrell (40th) *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd) *(Left Early)*
Sen. Harold Jones II (22nd) *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Colton Moore (53rd) *(Arrived Late and Left Early)*
Sen. Nan Orrock (36th)
Sen. Rick Williams (25th) *(Left Early)*

NOTE: Sen. Brandon Beach (21st) was absent.

Chairman Burns (23rd) called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m. and recognized Sen. Moore (53rd) to lead the Committee in prayer.

SB 181 (Sen. Anavitarte, 31st, LC 61 0116) Education; public schools and public postsecondary institutions shall not accept funding from or enter into contracts with foreign adversaries; provide

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

NOTE: Sen. Harrell (40th) arrived at 8:13 a.m.

Sen. Moore (53rd) and the Chair asked a series of questions to which Sen. Anavitarte (31st) responded.

NOTE: Sen. Harold Jones (22nd) arrived at 8:18 a.m.

The Chair opened the floor for questions from the Committee. There were none.

Sen. Williams (25th) made a motion that **SB 181 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 61 0185S)**. Sen. Hickman (4th) seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Committee Recommendation: SB 181 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 61 0185S)

SB 120 (Sen. Harbin, 16th, LC 61 0068) Education; public schools, local education agencies, and public postsecondary institutions shall not promote, support, or maintain any programs or activities that advocate for diversity, equity, and inclusion

The Chair announced that SB 120 would receive a hearing only.

NOTE: Sen. Orrock (36th) arrived at 8:25 a.m.
NOTE: Sen. Payne (54th) arrived at 8:36 a.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Marty Harbin (16th) to present the bill. Sen. Harbin (16th) presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Hickman (4th) left at 9:00 a.m.

Sen. Hufstetler (52nd), Sen. Jones (22nd), Sen. Orrock (36th), Sen. Payne (54th), and the Chair asked a series of questions to which Sen. Harbin (14th) responded.

NOTE: Sen. Hufstetler (52nd) left at 9:03 a.m.
NOTE: Sen. Moore (53rd) left at 9:08 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:
Chris Bruce, ACLU
Aireana Montgomery, Ga. Educators for equity & Justice
Sam Thomas, Black Youth Vote
Edward Porter, Black Youth Vote
John Moye, Urban League
Nichola Hines, League of Women Voters
Daniel Bomberger, Emory
Terrance Wilson, IDRA (Intercultural Development Research Association
Laihah Erold, Dunwoody High School Student
Andrew Welch, Kennesaw State Student
Margaret Ciccarelli, PAGE
Richard Rose, Communities United
Crysten Moreland, Constituent
Rep. Roger Bruce
Kayla Sargent, University Professor
Hamida Labi, NAACP Legal Defense Fund
Ms. Cooper, Education Policy Doctoral Student
Sen. Nikki Merritt, Georgia Black Caucus Chair

NOTE: Sen. Williams (25th) left at 9:28 a.m.

The Chair opened the floor for questions from the Committee. There were none.

The Chair asked a series of questions to which Sen. Merritt (9th) responded.

Committee Recommendation: SB 120 (LC 61 0068) No Action Taken

Chairman Burns (23rd) adjourned the meeting at 9:33 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

s/s
Sen. Max Burns (23rd), Chairman

s/s
Tarika Jackson, Recording Secretary

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

The Senate Committee on Retirement met on Monday, March 3, 2025, at 7:00 a.m. in Room 307 Coverdell Legislative Office Building. The following Committee members were in attendance:

Sen. Max Burns (23rd), Chairman
Sen. Billy Hickman (4th), Vice-Chair
Sen. Chuck Payne (54th), Secretary
Sen. Brandon Beach (21st), Ex-Officio
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd)
Sen. Harold Jones II (22nd)
Sen. Colton Moore (53rd)
Sen. Nan Orrock (36th) *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Rick Williams (25th)

NOTE: Sen. Sally Harrell (40th) was absent.

Chairman Burns (23rd) called the meeting to order at 7:05 a.m. and recognized Sen. Payne (54th) to lead the Committee in prayer.

Sen. Orrock (36th) arrived at 7:08 a.m.

SB 120 (Sen. Harbin, 16th, LC 61 0068) Education; public schools, local education agencies, and public postsecondary institutions shall not promote, support, or maintain any programs or activities that advocate for diversity, equity, and inclusion

The Chair recognized Sen. Marty Harbin (16th) to present the bill. Sen. Harbin (16th) presented the bill to the Committee.

Sen. Jones (22nd), Sen. Orrock (36th), Sen. Beach (21st), and Sen. Hufstetler (52nd) asked a series of questions to which Sen. Harbin (16th) responded.

Sen. Hufstetler (52nd) made a motion to **Amend:**
Line 17 by adding "or" after the semicolon
Line 18 by striking "or" after the semicolon
Removing Section C on lines 19-20

Sen. Williams (25th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 7-1.

Sen. Hickman (4th), Sen. Payne (54th), Sen. Beach (21st), Sen. Hufstetler (52nd), Sen. Jones (22nd), Sen. Orrock (36th), and Sen. Williams (25th) voted in favor of the motion.

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

The Chair called for a vote on the underlying bill. Sen. Moore (53rd) made a motion that **SB 120 Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Payne (54th) seconded the amendment. The motion passed by a vote of 6-2.

Sen. Hickman (4th), Sen. Payne (54th), Sen. Beach (21st), Sen. Hufstetler (52nd), Sen. Moore (53rd), and Sen. Williams (25th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Jones (22nd) and Sen. Orrock (36th) voted against the motion.

Committee Recommendation: SB 120 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 61 0201S)

Chairman Burns (23rd) adjourned the meeting at 7:16 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

s/s
Sen. Chuck Payne (54th), Secretary

s/s
Tarika Jackson, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Higher Education
Tuesday, March 11, 2025

The Senate Committee on Retirement met on Tuesday, March 11, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. in Room 307 Coverdell Legislative Office Building. The following Committee members were in attendance:

Sen. Max Burns (23rd), Chairman
Sen. Chuck Payne (54th), Secretary
Sen. Sally Harrell (40th)
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd) *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Colton Moore (53rd)
Sen. Rick Williams (25th)

NOTE: Sen. Billy Hickman (4th), Vice-Chair, Sen. Brandon Beach (21st), Sen. Harold Jones II (22nd), and Sen. Nan Orrock (36th) were absent.

Chairman Burns (23rd) called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m. and recognized Sen. Payne (54th) to lead the Committee in prayer.

HB 38 (Rep. Martin, 49th, LC 61 0053) Education; needs based financial aid program; revise definition of eligible student

The Chair recognized Rep. Chuck Martin (49th) to present the bill. Rep. Martin (49th) presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Hufstetler (52nd) arrived at 3:03 p.m.

The Chair opened the floor for questions from the Committee. There were none.

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

Testimony in Favor of the Bill:
Ashley Young, GPBI

Testimony in Opposition to the Bill:
None

Sen. Payne (54th) made a motion that **HB 38 Do Pass (LC 61 0053).** Sen. Williams (25th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 4-1.

Sen. Payne (54th), Sen. Harrell (40th), Sen. Hufstetler (52nd), and Sen. Williams (25th) voted in favor of the motion.

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

Committee Recommendation: HB 38 DO PASS (LC 61 0053)

Chairman Burns (23rd) adjourned the meeting at 3:18 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

s/s
Sen. Chuck Payne (54th), Secretary

s/s
Tarika Jackson, Recording Secretary

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

The Senate Committee on Retirement met on Thursday, March 20, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in Room 310 Coverdell Legislative Office Building. The following Committee members were in attendance:

Sen. Max Burns (23rd), Chairman
Sen. Billy Hickman (4th) Vice-Chair
Sen. Chuck Payne (54th), Secretary
Sen. Sally Harrell (40th)
Sen. Harold Jones II (22nd) *(Arrived late)*
Sen. Rick Williams (25th)

NOTE: Sen. Brandon Beach (21st), Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd), Sen. Colton Moore (53rd), and Sen. Nan Orrock (36th) were absent.

Chairman Burns (23rd) called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m. and recognized Sen. Payne (54th) to lead the Committee in prayer.

HB 322 (Rep. Hawkins, 27th, LC 46 1130S) Ga. Board of Dentistry; issuance of a dental or dental hygiene license for the sole purpose of teaching in an accredited dental, dental hygiene school, or academic medical center; revise provisions

The Chair recognized Rep. Lee Hawkins (27th) to present the bill. Rep. Hawkins (27th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for questions from the Committee. There were none.

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

Testimony in Favor of the Bill:
Dave Pratt, The Southern Group

Testimony in Opposition to the Bill:
None

Sen. Williams (25th) made a motion that **HB 322 Do Pass (LC 46 1130S).** Sen. Hickman (4th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: HB 322 DO PASS (LC 46 1130S)

HB 217 (Rep. Hong, 103rd, LC 61 0210S) Education; make Dual Achievement Program a permanent state-wide program

The Chair recognized Rep. Soo Hong (103rd) to present the bill. Rep. Hong (103rd) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair and Sen. Hickman (4th) asked questions to which Rep. Hong (103rd) responded.

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

Testimony in Favor of the Bill:
Mark Peevy, Technical College System of Georgia

Testimony in Opposition to the Bill:
None

The Chair and Sen. Harrell (40th) asked questions to which Rep. Hong (103rd) responded.

The Chair opened the floor for questions from the Committee. There were none.

Sen. Williams (25th) made a motion that **HB 217 Do Pass (LC 61 0210S).** Sen. Payne (54th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: HB 217 DO PASS (LC 61 0210S)

HB 192 (Rep. Gambill, 15th, LC 49 2158-EC) Top State for Talent Act; enact

The Chair recognized Rep. Matthew Gambill (15th) to present the bill. Rep. Gambill (15th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair asked a question to which Rep. Gambill (15th) responded.

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

Testimony in Favor of the Bill:
Alex Huskey, Policy Advisor for Governor Kemp
Korynn Schooley, Achieve Atlanta

NOTE: Sen. Jones (22nd) arrived at 6:26 p.m.

Testimony in Opposition to the Bill:
None

The Chair and Sen. Harrell (40th) asked questions to which Mr. Peevy (TCSG) responded.

Sen. Harrell (40th) asked a question to which Mr. Huskey responded.

The Chair opened the floor for questions from the Committee. There were none.

Sen. Payne (54th) made a motion that **HB 192 Do Pass (LC 49 2158-EC)**. Sen. Harrell (40th) seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous (6-1).

Committee Recommendation: HB 192 DO PASS (LC 49 2158-EC)

Chairman Burns (23rd) adjourned the meeting at 6:43 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

s/s
Sen. Chuck Payne (54th), Secretary

s/s
Tarika Jackson, Recording Secretary

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

The Senate Committee on Retirement met on Tuesday, March 25, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. in Room 307 Coverdell Legislative Office Building. The following Committee members were in attendance:

Sen. Billy Hickman (4th), Vice-Chair
Sen. Chuck Payne (54th), Secretary
Sen. Sally Harrell (40th)
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd)
Sen. Nan Orrock (36th)
Sen. Rick Williams (25th)

Vice-Chairman Hickman (4th) called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m., and recognized Sen. Payne (54th) to lead the Committee in prayer.

NOTE: Sen. Max Burns (23rd), Chairman, Sen. Brandon Beach (21st), Sen. Harold Jones II (22nd), and Sen. Colton Moore (53rd) were absent.

NOTE: Sen. Hufstetler (52nd) left at 4:02 p.m.

HB 56 (Rep. Petrea, 166th, LC 61 0178S) Education; grants to spouses of law enforcement officers, firefighters, and prison guards who are killed or permanently disabled in the line of duty; provide

NOTE: Sen. Hufstetler (52nd) returned at 4:06 p.m.

The Vice-Chair recognized Rep. Jesse Petrea (166th) to present the bill. Rep. Petrea (166th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Vice-Chair opened the floor for questions from the Committee, then asked a question to which Rep. Petrea (166th) responded.

Sen. Williams (25th) made a motion that **HB 56 Do Pass (LC 61 0178S).** Sen. Payne (54th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: HB 56 DO PASS (LC 61 0178S)

HB 150 (Rep. Fleming, 114th, LC 61 0154S) Combating Threats from China Act of 2025 - Higher Education; enact

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

The Vice-Chair opened the floor for questions from the Committee. There were none.

Sen. Williams (25th) made a motion that **HB 150 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 61 0232S).** Sen. Payne (54th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: HB 150 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 61 0232S)

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

Respectfully Submitted,

s/s
Sen. Chuck Payne (54th), Secretary

s/s
Tarika Jackson, Recording Secretary