SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
2025 ROSTER

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

Sen. Bill Cowsert, Vice-Chairman
District 46
P.O. Box 512
Athens, GA 30603

Sen. John F. Kennedy, Secretary
District 18
321 State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334

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

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

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

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

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

Sen. Michael "Doc" Rhett
District 33
P.O. Box 777
Marietta, GA 30061

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

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

Sen. Ben Watson
District 1
325-A CLOB
Atlanta, GA 30334

THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY 2025-2026 COMMITTEE RULES

1. Quorum of the Committee shall be six (6) members. Every member, including ex-officio members, shall count as a voting member for purposes of establishing a quorum at any given meeting.
2. The Chairman shall determine which bills, resolutions, substitutes, or amendments are to be considered and the order in which said measures are considered. The Chairman shall have the authority and discretion to call a bill, resolution, substitute or amendment for debate and explanation only or to limit consideration of such measures.
3. Each author, or his or her designee, requesting a Committee hearing and/or vote on a bill shall make such request in writing no later than forty-eight (48) hours prior to the scheduled meeting of the Committee, except at the discretion of the Chairman.
4. The Chairman shall have the authority to refer bills and resolutions to Subcommittee for study. Such Subcommittees in turn shall have the authority to make recommendation on such measures to the full Committee at such times as shall be designated by the Chairman. All actions of the Subcommittees shall be approved or disapproved by the standing Committee.
5. The Chairman shall have the authority to schedule, manage, and regulate the debate on bills, resolutions, substitutes, and amendments, and may in his discretion recognize motions related to such measures and the order in which they are recognized.
6. When a bill or resolution is before the Committee for consideration, and multiple, concurrent motions are made, the following shall be the precedence of the motions: 1. A motion that a bill do pass; 2. A motion that a bill do not pass; 3. A motion to postpone to a time certain; 4. A motion to refer a bill to a subcommittee (All motions listed above shall receive a second before consideration.)
7. The Committee shall convene, recess, and adjourn upon the order of the Chairman.
8. A bill or resolution will be considered only after presentation by its principal author or other legislator whom he or she may designate unless otherwise directed by the Chairman. The principal author shall be the legislator whose name appears first on the list of authors. The Committee shall not vote on any bill until the author or his or her designee has been given the opportunity to appear and be heard.
9. The Chairman reserves the right to delay or decline action on substitutes and amendments not provided to the Chairman in writing at least 24 hours prior to the hearing in which they are presented. 3
10. The Chairman shall not vote unless the Committee shall be equally divided or unless his or her vote if given in the minority will make the division equal. In case the vote is equally divided, the Chairman must vote.
11. Any member or members of the Committee who disagree with the majority report of the Committee shall be privileged to file a minority report if they so desire.
12. These rules may be amended upon a motion duly made and subsequently approved by two thirds of the members of the Committee.
13. Where these rules are silent on a specific issue, the Rules of the Senate as adopted shall govern. If the Rules of the Senate are silent on a specific issue, Mason’s Manual of Legislative Procedure shall govern.

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Judiciary
Monday, February 3, 2025

The Senate Committee on Judiciary met on Monday, February 3, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Brian Strickland (42nd), Chairman
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Vice-Chairman (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. John F. Kennedy (18th), Secretary (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th)
Sen. Harold Jones II (22nd)
Sen. Elena Parent (44th)
Sen. Michael 'Doc' Rhett (33rd)
Sen. Shawn Still (48th)
Sen. Blake Tillery (19th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Ben Watson (1st)

NOTE: Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th), Ex-Officio, and Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Ex-Officio, were absent.

Chairman Strickland (42nd) called the meeting to order at 4:06 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Cowsert (46th) arrived at 4:07 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Kennedy (18th) arrived at 4:07 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Tillery (19th) arrived at 4:07 p.m.

The Chair introduced the Committee Rules for the 2025-2026 Legislative Biennium.

The Chair recognized Sen. Watson (1st) who made a motion to adopt the Rules for the 2025-2026 Legislative Biennium. Sen. Jones (22nd) seconded the motion. The motioned passed unanimously. A copy of the adopted Rules is attached to these minutes.

SB 9 (Sen. Albers, 56th, LC 56 0249) "Ensuring Accountability for Illegal AI Activities Act", enact

The Chair recognized Sen. John Albers (56th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Albers (56th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor to the public. He recognized the following:

Testimony in opposition to the bill:
Thomas Weaver, Private Citizen
Mazie Lynn Guertin, GACDL
Ryan Brown, GACDL

Testimony in favor of the bill:
Mike Griffin, GA Baptist
Mason Raine, The Technology Association of Georgia
Robert Smith, PAC

Committee Recommendation: SB 9 (LC 56 0249) No action was taken

SB 12 (Sen. Ginn, 47th, LC 47 3168) Inspection of Public Records; Documents and records in the possession of private persons or entities; revise provisions

NOTE: Sen. Hatchett (50th) left at 4:56 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Hatchett (50th) returned 4:58 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Hatchett (50th) left at 5:03 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Hatchett (50th) returned at 5:08 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Watson (1st) left at 5:19 p.m**.**
NOTE: Sen. Watson (1st) arrived at 5:21 p.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Frank Ginn (47th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Ginn (47th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor to the public. He recognized the following:

Testimony in opposition to the bill:
Richard T. Griffiths, Georgia First Amend Foundation
Sarah Brewerton- Palmer, Georgia First Amend Foundation

Testimony in favor of the bill:
Rusi Patel, General Counsel

Committee Recommendation: SB 12 (LC 47 3168) No action was taken

Chairman Strickland (42nd) adjourned the meeting at 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/
Sen. John F. Kennedy (18th), Secretary

/s/
Hannah Holcomb, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Judiciary
Thursday, February 6, 2025

The Senate Committee on Judiciary met on Thursday, February 6, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Brian Strickland (42nd), Chairman
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Vice-Chairman *(Left Early)*
Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Ex-Officio (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Elena Parent (44th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Michael 'Doc' Rhett (33rd)
Sen. Shawn Still (48th)
Sen. Blake Tillery (19th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Ben Watson (1st)

NOTE: Sen. John F. Kennedy (18th), Secretary, Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th), and Sen. Harold Jones II (22nd) were absent.

Chairman Strickland (42nd) called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Gooch (51st) arrived at 3:03 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Parent (44th) arrived at 3:06 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Tillery (19th) arrived at 3:13 p.m.

SB 10 (Sen. Goodman, 8th, LC 44 2865) Superior Court of the Alapaha Judicial Circuit; additional judge; provide

The Chair recognized Sen. Russ Goodman (8th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Goodman (8th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor to the public. He recognized the following:

Testimony in favor of the bill:
Judge Clayton A. Tomlinson, Alapaha Circuit Superior Court Judge

Testimony in opposition to the bill:
None

The Chair recognized Sen. Gooch (51st) who made a motion that **SB 10 Do Pass (LC 44 2865)**. Sen. Cowsert (46th) seconded the motion.

The Chair recognized Sen. Still (48th) who made a motion to **Amend** by striking "July 1, 2025" and inserting "January 1, 2026" on line 22. Sen. Dolezal (27th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously

The Chair called for a vote on the motion that **SB 10 Do Pass as Amended**. Sen. Cowsert (46th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SB 10 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 62 0095S)

SB 9 (Sen. Albers, 56th, LC 56 0249) "Ensuring Accountability for Illegal AI Activities Act", enact

The Chair recognized Sen. John Albers (56th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Albers (56th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor to the public. He recognized the following:

Testimony in favor of the bill:
Robert Smith, PAC

Testimony in opposition to the bill:
Mazie Lynn Guertin, GACDL

The Chair recognized Sen. Rhett (33rd) who made a motion that **SB 9 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 49 2205S)**. Sen. Gooch (51st) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 7-1.

Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Dolezal (27th), Sen. Gooch (51st), Sen. Rhett (33rd), Sen. Still (48th), Sen. Tillery (19th), and Sen. Watson (1st) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Parent (44th) voted in opposition to the motion.

Committee Recommendation: SB 9 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 49 2205S)

NOTE: Sen. Cowsert (46th) left early at 3:32 p.m.

SB 12 (Sen. Ginn, 47th, LC 47 3168) Inspection of Public Records; Documents and records in the possession of private persons or entities; revise provisions

The Chair recognized Sen. Frank Ginn (47th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Ginn (47th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor to the public. He recognized the following:

Testimony in favor of the bill:
None

Testimony in opposition to the bill
Richard T. Griffiths, Georgia First Amend Foundation
Sarah Brewerton- Palmer, Georgia First Amend Foundation

The Chair recognized Sen. Watson (1st) who made a motion that **SB 12 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 49 2218S)**. Sen. Rhett (33rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SB 12 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 49 2218S)

Chairman Strickland (42nd) adjourned the meeting at 3:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/
Sen. Brian Strickland (42nd), Chairman

/s/
Hannah Holcomb, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Judiciary
Monday, February 10, 2025

The Senate Committee on Judiciary met on Monday, February 10, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Brian Strickland (42nd), Chairman
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. John F. Kennedy (18th), Secretary
Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th)
Sen. Harold Jones II (22nd) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Ex-Officio
Sen. Elena Parent (44th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Michael 'Doc' Rhett (33rd)
Sen. Shawn Still (48th)
Sen. Blake Tillery (19th)
Sen. Ben Watson (1st)

Chairman Strickland (42nd) called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Parent (44th) arrived at 4:09 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Jones II (22nd) arrived at 4:09 p.m.

SB 68 (Sen. Kennedy, 18th, LC 62 0074-EC) Civil Practice; Substantive and Comprehensive Revision of provisions regarding civil practice; evidentiary matters, damages, and liability in tort actions; provide

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

NOTE: Sen. Jones II (22nd) left at 4:20 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Jones II (22nd) returned at 4:31 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Dolezal (27th) left at 5:05 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Dolezal (27th) returned at 5:16 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Watson (1st) left at 5:52 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Watson (1st) returned at 5:57 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Parent (44th) left at 5:59 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Parent (44th) returned at 6:03 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Jones II (22nd) left at 6:26 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Hatchett (50th) left at 6:31 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Kennedy (18th) left at 6:32 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Gooch (51st) left at 6:33 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Kennedy (18th) returned at 6:36 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Gooch (51st) returned at 6:42 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Hatchett (50th) returned at 6:43 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Jones II (22nd) returned at 6:44 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Parent (44th) left at 6:48 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Watson (1st) left at 6:56 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Watson (1st) returned at 7:08 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Parent (44th) returned at 7:12 p.m.

The Chair opened the floor to the public. He recognized the following:

Testimony in favor of the Bill:
Lanny Allgood, President and CEO, Cingo
John Triplett, B&T Food Fresh Market, GA Food Industry Assoc.
Sara Gillis & Family, Private Citizen
Laurel Hart, Columbia Residential, GA Apartment Assoc.
Jimbo Floyd, Turner Wood & Smith Insurance, Independent Insurers Assoc. of GA
Haley Bower, Clipper Petroleum, GA Assoc. of Convenience Stores
Charles Tarbutton, President and CEO, B-H Transfer Company, Sandersville, GA
Blair Cash, Partner, Mosley Marciniak Law Group, LLP- Marietta, GA

NOTE: Sen. Hatchett (50th) left at 7:20 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Rhett (33rd) left at 7:20 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Still (48th) left at 7:20 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Watson (1st) left at 7:20 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Dolezal (27th) left at 7:20 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Hatchett (50th) returned at 7:27 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Watson (1st) returned at 7:27 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Rhett (33rd) returned at 7:35 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Dolezal (27th) returned at 7:43 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Watson (1st) left at 8:11 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Still (48th) returned at 8:14 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Watson (1st) returned at 8:15 p.m.

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:
Leighton Moore, Attorney
Alan Henilten, GTLA
Josh Carroll, Private Citizen
Lindsay Macon, Private Citizen
Drew Ashley, Private Citizen
Mike Moran, Private Citizen
Jason Branen, Private Citizen
Brandon Feek, Private Citizen
Robert Allen, Audiologist
Dr. Tamara Greene, Neurologist
Aubrey Villings, Georgia Chiropractors Assoc.
Dr. Shevia Pollydore, MD
Betty Washm, Private Citizen

Dr. Amit Patel, MD, Private Citizen

The Chair recognized Sen. Cowsert (46th) who made a motion that **SB 68 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 49 2233-ECS)**. Sen. Gooch (51st) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 8-3.

Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Dolezal (27th), Sen. Gooch (51th), Sen. Hatchett (50th), Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Still (48th), Sen. Tillery (19th), and Sen. Watson (1st) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Jones II (22nd), Sen. Parent (44th), and Sen. Rhett (33rd) voted in opposition of the motion.

Committee Recommendation: SB 68 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 49 2233-ECS)

NOTE: Sen. Parent (44th) left at 8:55 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Parent (44th) returned at 9:00 p.m.

SB 69 (Sen. Kennedy, 18th, LC 49 2160-EC) "Georgia Courts Access and Consumer Protection Act"; enact

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

The Chair opened the floor to the public. He recognized the following:

Testimony in favor of the Bill:
None

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:
Eric Schuller, ARC/ President
Josh Carroll, GTLA
John F. King, Insurance Department
Morgan Knowles, Private Citizen
Adam Cleveland, Georgia Creditors Council

The Chair recognized Sen. Gooch (51st) who made a motion that **SB 69 Do Pass (LC 49 2160-EC)**. Sen. Cowsert (46th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SB 69 DO PASS (LC 49 2160-EC)

Chairman Strickland (42nd) adjourned the meeting at 9:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/
Sen. John F. Kennedy (18th), Secretary

/s/
Hannah Holcomb, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Judiciary
Thursday, February 13, 2025

The Senate Committee on Judiciary met on Thursday, February 13, 2025 at 2:30 p.m. in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Brian Strickland (42nd), Chairman
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th)
Sen. John F. Kennedy (18th), Secretary (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Harold Jones II (22nd) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Elena Parent (44th), (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Michael 'Doc' Rhett (33rd)
Sen. Shawn Still (48th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Blake Tillery (19th)
Sen. Ben Watson (1st)

NOTE: Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th), Ex-Officio, and Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Ex-Officio, were absent.

Chairman Strickland (42nd) called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

SB 88 (Sen. Bearden, 30th, LC 47 3276) Douglas Judicial Circuit; a fourth judge of the superior courts; provide

The Chair recognized Sen. Timothy Bearden (30th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Bearden (30th) presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Jones II (22nd) arrived at 3:07 p.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Watson (1st) made a motion **SB 88 Do Pass (LC 47 3276)**. Sen. Cowsert (46th) seconded the motion.

The Chair recognized Sen. Tillery (19th) who made a motion to **Amend** SB 88 by striking "July 1, 2025" and inserting "January 1, 2026" on line 22 and making conforming date changes throughout Section Three. Sen. Watson (1st) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair called for a vote on the motion that **SB 88 Do Pass as Amended**. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SB 88 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 62 0106S)

SB 40 (Sen. Hatchett, 50th, LC 60 0038) Secondary Metals Recyclers; the definition of the term "used, detached catalytic converters" to said article; provide for applicability

The Chair recognized Mr. Skin Edge, GA Link, to present the bill to the Committee. Mr. Edge presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Still (48th) arrived at 3:13 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Jones II (22nd) arrived at 3:07 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Watson (1st) left at 3:13 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Watson (1st) returned at 3:18 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Kennedy (18th) arrived at 3:22 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Parent (44th) arrived at 3:24 p.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Watson (1st) who made a motion that **SB 40 Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Tillery (19th) seconded the motion.

The Chair recognized Sen. Watson (1st) who made a motion to **Amend** SB 40 by striking lines 67 through 69 and inserting:

(d) No secondary metals recycler shall:
(1) Pay to any seller more than $100.00 in cash for any transaction or complete more than two transactions per seller, per day, per registered secondary metals recycler location;
(2) Pay cash to any seller for used, detached catalytic converters or coils;
(3) Pay cash to any seller for used utility wire;
(4) Pay cash to any seller for used communications copper;
(5) Pay cash to any seller for copper wire; or
(6) Pay cash to any seller for a battery.

Sen. Rhett (33rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair called for a vote on the motion that **SB 40 Do Pass by Substitute as Amended**. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SB 40 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 62 0107S)

Chairman Strickland (42nd) adjourned the meeting at 3:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/
Sen. John F. Kennedy (18th), Secretary

/s/
Hannah Holcomb, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Judiciary
Thursday, February 20, 2025

The Senate Committee on Judiciary met on Thursday, February 20, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Brian Strickland (42nd), Chairman
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. John F. Kennedy (18th), Secretary
Sen. Tim Bearden (30th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Russ Goodman (8th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Ex-Officio (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Elena Parent (44th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Michael 'Doc' Rhett (33rd)
Sen. Shawn Still (48th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Blake Tillery (19th)
Sen. Ben Watson (1st)

NOTE: Sen. Harold Jones II (22nd) was absent.

NOTE: Sen. Timothy Bearden (30th) and Sen. Russ Goodman (8th) were appointed to the Senate Committee on Judiciary, as Ex-Officio members, by the Committee on Assignments for the meeting held on February 20, 2025. Copies of the letters of appointment are attached.

Chairman Strickland (42nd) called the meeting to order at 3:17 p.m.

SB 79 (Sen. Goodman, 8th, LC 57 0211) "Fentanyl Eradication and Removal Act"; enact

The Chair recognized Sen. Goodman (8th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Goodman (8th) presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Parent (44th) arrived at 3:19 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Gooch (51st) arrived at 3:19 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Bearden (30th) arrived at 3:20 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Parent (44th) left at 3:21 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Still (48th) arrived at 3:21 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Hatchett (50th) arrived at 3:22 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Parent (44th) returned at 3:24 p.m.

Testimony in favor of the Bill:
Meredith Walters Price, Private Citizen
Walter Jones, Private Citizen
Chelsea Thompson, Frontline

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:
Graham Younger, GACDL

The Chair recognized Sen. Tillery (19th) who made a motion that **SB 79 Do Pass (LC 57 0211)**. Sen. Gooch (51st) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SB 79 DO PASS (LC 57 0211)

SB 57 (Sen. Tillery, 19th, LC 55 0435) "Freedom of Speech and Belief Act"; enact

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

Testimony in favor of the Bill:
Mike Griffin, GA Baptist
Chelsea Thompson, Frontline

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:
Elizabeth Chandler, GA Bankers
Rhodes McLandahan, Assn.
Sydney Seal, Georgia Credit Union Assn.
Lori Godfrey, Community Bankers Assoc.
Brandee Bickle, Georgia's Own Credit Union

The Chair recognized Sen. Hatchett (50th) who made a motion to **Amend** by inserting on line 89 after "utility services means" insert ", as it relates to this code section herein,". Sen. Bearden seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair recognized Sen. Bearden (30th) who made a motion that **SB 57 Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Goodman (8th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 7-5.

Sen. Bearden (30th), Sen. Dolezal (27th), Sen. Gooch (51st), Sen. Goodman (8th), Sen. Hatchett (50th), Sen. Tillery (19th), Sen. Watson (1st) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Parent (44th), and Sen. Rhett (33rd) voted in opposition to the motion.

Committee Recommendation: SB 57 DO PASS BY SUBSTSITUTE (LC 62 0129S)

SB 87 (Sen. Setzler, 37th, LC 49 2127) Levy and Sale of Property; exemption of the full value of a debtor's primary residence from levy and sale; provide

NOTE: Sen. Parent (44th) left early at 4:00 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Kennedy (18th) left early at 4:00 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Cowsert (46th) left early at 4:00 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Rhett (33rd) left early at 4:00 p.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Setzler (37th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Setzler (37th) presented the bill to the Committee.

Testimony in favor of the Bill:
None

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:
Neil Gordon, Bankruptcy Attorney
Jason Pettie, Bankruptcy Attorney
Adam Cleveland, Georgia Creditors Council

The Chair recognized Sen. Hatchett (50th) who made a motion that **SB 87 Do Pass (LC 49 2127)**. Sen. Tillery (19th) seconded the motion. The motion failed by a vote of 3-3.

Sen. Hatchett (50th), Sen. Strickland (42nd), and Sen. Tillery (19th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Dolezal (27th), Sen. Still (48th), and Sen. Watson (1st) voted in opposition.

Committee Recommendation: SB 87 (LC 49 2127) No action was taken

SB 42 (Sen. Hatchett, 50th, LC 48 1398) Penalties for violating code sections 16-6-9 through 16-6-12; certain penalty provisions for the offense of prostitution, keeping a place of prostitution, pimping, repeal

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

Testimony in favor of the Bill:
Robert Smith, PAC

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:
None

The Chair recognized Sen. Dolezal (27th) who made a motion that **SB 42 Do Pass (LC 48 1398)**. Sen. Still (48th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SB 42 DO PASS (LC 48 1398)

Chairman Strickland (42nd) adjourned the meeting at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/
Sen. John F. Kennedy (18th), Secretary

/s/
Hannah Holcomb, Recording Secretary

OFFICE OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
240 STATE CAPITOL
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334

BURT JONES
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

February 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 Russ Goodman as an ex-officio member of the Senate Judiciary Committee for the committee meeting to be held on February 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

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 Tim Beardon of the 38th District as an ex-officio member of the Senate Judiciary 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 Judiciary
Monday, February 24, 2025

The Senate Committee on Judiciary met on Monday, February 24, 2025 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Brian Strickland (42nd), Chairman
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Vice-Chairman (*Left Early*)
Sen. John F. Kennedy (18th), Secretary (*Left Early*)
Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th)
Sen. Harold Jones II (22nd)
Sen. Elena Parent (44th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Michael 'Doc' Rhett (33rd) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Shawn Still (48th)
Sen. Blake Tillery (19th)
Sen. Ben Watson (1st)

NOTE: Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th), Ex-Officio, and Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Ex-Officio, were absent.

Chairman Strickland (42nd) called the meeting to order at 4:36 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Parent (44th) arrived at 4:37 p.m.

SB 189 (Sen. Williams, 25th, LC 47 3349) Department of Community Affairs; To develop and maintain a publicly accessible date bare of legal notices; provide

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

NOTE: Sen. Rhett (33rd) arrived at 4:49 p.m.

Testimony in favor of the Bill:
Andy Welch, Attorney
Todd Edwards, ACCG
Ryan Bowsersox, GMA

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:
Ragen Marsh, GA Press Association

Committee Recommendation: SB 189 (LC 47 3349) No action was taken

NOTE: Sen. Still (48th) left at 5:55 p.m.

SB 29 (Sen. Williams, 25th, LC 55 0379) DNA Sampling, collection, and analysis; collection of DNA samples of individuals who are arrested for the commission of a felony at the time such individuals are booked or otherwise processed by a detention facility; provide

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

Testimony in favor of the Bill:
Ashley Spence, DNA Justice Project
Mike Mitchell, Georgia Sheriffs Association
Terry Norris, Georgia Sheriffs Association

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:
Thomas Weaver, Private Citizen
Mazie Lynn Guertin, GACDL
Hunter Rodgers, GACDL

The Chair recognized Sen. Hatchett (50th) who made a motion that **SB 29 Do Pass (LC 55 0379)**. Sen. Kennedy (18th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 5-3.

Sen. Hatchett (50th), Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Rhett (33rd), Sen. Tillery (19th), and Sen. Watson (1st) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Jones II (22nd), and Sen. Parent (44th) voted in opposition to the motion.

Committee Recommendation: SB 29 DO PASS (LC 55 0379)

SB 218 (Sen. Robertson, 29th, LC 49 2232) Prosecuting Attorneys Qualifications Commission; Shall be assigned for administrative purposes only to the administrative Office of the Courts; provide

The Chair recognized Sen. Randy Robertson (29th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Robertson (29th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair recognized Sen. Tillery (19th) who made a motion that **SB 218 Do Pass (LC 49 2232)**. Sen. Kennedy (18th) seconded the motion.

The Chair recognized Sen. Tillery (19th) who made a motion to **Amend** by striking "April 1, 2024" on line 85 and inserting "April 1, 2023". Sen. Parent (44th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair called for a vote on the motion **SB 218 Do Pass by Substitute**. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SB 218 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 49 2293S)

NOTE: Sen. Still (48th) returned at 6:11 p.m.

SB 145 (Sen. Burns, 23rd, LC 47 3359) Augusta Judicial Circuit; a sixth judge of the superior courts; provide

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

Testimony in favor of the Bill:
John Flythe, Judge

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:
None

The Chair recognized Sen. Watson (1st) who made a motion that **SB 145 Do Pass (LC 47 3359)**. Sen. Jones II (22nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

NOTE: Sen. Kennedy (18th) left early at 6:15 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Cowsert (46th) left early at 6:15 p.m.

Committee Recommendation: SB 145 DO PASS (LC 47 3359)

SB 163 (Sen. Moore, 53rd, LC 39 4548) Brady Law Regulations; standards for bringing an action against the Government for an unauthorized act relating to regulation of weapons; revise

The Chair recognized Sen. Colton Moore (53rd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Moore (53rd) presented the bill to the Committee.

Testimony in favor of the Bill:
Alex Doer, Georgia Owners
Thomas Weaver, Private Citizen

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:
None

The Chair recognized Sen. Hatchett (50th) who made a motion **SB 163 Do Pass (LC 39 4548)**. Sen. Watson (1st) seconded the motion.

The Chair recognized Sen. Watson (1st) who made a motion to **Amend** by inserting "storage," at the end line 30. Sen. Tillery (19th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 4-3.

Sen. Hatchett (50th), Sen. Still (48th), Sen. Tillery (19th), and Sen. Watson (1st) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Jones II (22nd), Sen. Parent (44th), and Sen. Rhett (33rd) voted in opposition to the motion.

The Chair called for a vote on the motion **SB 163 Do Pass by Substitute**. The motion passed by a vote of 4-3.

Sen. Hatchett (50th), Sen. Still (48th), Sen. Tillery (19th), and Sen. Watson (1st) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Jones II (22nd), Sen. Parent (44th), and Sen. Rhett (33rd) voted in opposition to the motion.

Committee Recommendation: SB 163 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 49 2287S)

SB 173 (Sen. McLaurin, 14th, LC 55 0401) Pleadings and Motions; movants to file notices of uncontested motions in superior courts and state courts; authorize

The Chair recognized Sen. Josh McLaurin (14th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. McLaurin (14th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair recognized Sen. Parent (44th) who made a motion that **SB 173 Do Pass (LC 55 0401)**. Sen. Jones (22nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SB 173 DO PASS (LC 55 0401)

SB 153 (Sen. Hatchett, 50th, LC 39 4444) Official Code of Georgia Annotated; revise, modernize, correct errors or omissions in, and reenact the statutory portion of the state code

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. Watson (1st) who made a motion that **SB 153 Do Pass (LC 39 4444)**. Sen. Rhett (33rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 7-1.

Sen. Hatchett (50th), Sen. Jones II (22nd), Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Parent (44th), Sen. Rhett (33rd), Sen. Still (48th), and Sen. Watson (1st) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Tillery (19th) voted in opposition to the motion.

Committee Recommendation: SB 153 DO PASS (LC 39 4444)

Chairman Strickland (42nd) adjourned the meeting at 6:41p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/
Sen. Brian Strickland (42nd), Chairman

/s/
Hannah Holcomb, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Judiciary
Thursday, February 27, 2025

The Senate Committee on Judiciary met on Thursday, February 27, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Brian Strickland (42nd), Chairman
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Drew Echols (49th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Harold Jones II (22nd) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th), Ex-Officio (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Ex-Officio (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Elena Parent (44th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Michael 'Doc' Rhett (33rd) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Shawn Still (48th)
Sen. Blake Tillery (19th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Ben Watson (1st)

NOTE: Sen. John F. Kennedy (18th), Secretary, was absent.

NOTE: Sen. Drew Echols (49th) was appointed to the Senate Committee on Judiciary, as an Ex-Officio member, by the Committee on Assignments for the meeting held on February 27, 2025. A copy of the letter of appointment is attached.

Chairman Strickland (42nd) called the meeting to order at 2:09 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Dolezal (27th) arrived at 2:10 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Parent (44th) arrived at 2:11 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Rhett (33rd) arrived at 2:11 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Jones II (22nd) arrived at 2:12 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Hatchett (50th) arrived at 2:13 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Tillery (19th) arrived at 2:38 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Gooch (51st) arrived at 2:40 p.m.

SB 132 (Sen. Strickland, 42nd, LC 49 2133) Insanity and Mental Incapacity; hearing before a court orders an evaluation of the mental competency of an accused person to stand trial; require

The Chair recognized Sen. Strickland (42nd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Strickland (42nd) presented the bill to the Committee.

Testimony in favor of the Bill:
Herb Cramford, Coweta DA
Mazie Lynn Guertin, GACDL

Carlos Rodriguez, GACDL

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:
None

The Chair recognized Sen. Watson (1st) who made a motion that **SB 132 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 49 2240S)**. Sen. Still (48th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SB 132 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 49 2240S)

SB 207 (Sen. Strickland, 42nd, LC 49 2185) Professions and Businesses; a preclearance process in the licensing of individuals with criminal records who make application to or are investigated by certain licensing boards and commissions; create

The Chair presented the bill to the Committee.

Testimony in favor of the Bill:
Wade Askew, GJP

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:
None

The Chair recognized Sen. Watson (1st) who made a motion that **SB 207 Do Pass (LC 49 2185)**. Sen. Parent (44th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SB 207 DO PASS (LC 49 2185)

SB 36 (Sen. Setzler, 37th, LC 44 2920ER) "Georgia Religious Freedom Restoration Act"; enact

The Chair recognized Sen. Ed Setzler (37th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Setzler (37th) presented the bill to the Committee.

Testimony in favor of the Bill:
Thomas Weaver, Private Citizen
Mike Griffin, GA Baptist
Paul Smith, Citizen Impact
Chelsea Thompson, Frontline

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:
Nnuka Ewulonu, ACLU of GA
Rabbi Michael Bernstien, Congregation Gesher Torah
Pastor Matthew O'Rear, St. Luke Lutheran
Rev. Iya Estee Dillard, Sistersong
Jeff Graham, Georgia Equality

The Chair recognized Sen. Gooch (51st) who made a motion that **SB 36 Do Pass (LC 44 2920ER)**. Sen. Cowsert (46th) seconded the motion.

The Chair recognized Sen. Jones II (22nd) who made a motion to **Amend** by striking the entire bill and replacing it with LC 44 3106ERS. Sen. Parent (44th) seconded the motion. The motion failed by a vote of 3-7.

Sen. Jones II (22nd), Sen. Parent (44th), and Sen. Rhett (33rd) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Dolezal (27th), Sen. Echols (49th), Sen. Gooch (51st), Sen. Hatchett (50th), Sen. Still (48th), Sen. Tillery (19th), and Sen. Watson (1st) voted in opposition to the motion.

The Chair recognized Sen. Parent who made a motion to **Amend** by adopting AM 44 0208ER:

Amend SB 36 (LC 44 2920ER) by replacing lines 42-49 with the following:

> (1) 'Compelling governmental interest' means the protection of the welfare of a child from abuse or neglect as provided by state law and protecting persons against discrimination on any ground prohibited by federal, state, or local law.
> (2) 'Demonstrates' means meets the burden of going forward with the evidence and of persuasion.
> (3) 'Exercise of religion' means any exercise of religion, whether or not compelled by, or central to, a system of religious belief, including, but not limited to, the practice or observance of religion under Paragraphs III and IV of Section I, Article I of the Constitution of this state or the Free Exercise Clause of the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.
> (4) 'Government' includes any branch, department, agency, instrumentality, and official

Sen. Jones II (22nd) seconded the motion. The motion failed by a vote of 3-7.

Sen. Jones II (22nd), Sen. Parent (44th), and Sen. Rhett (33rd) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Dolezal (27th), Sen. Echols (49th), Sen. Gooch (51st), Sen. Hatchett (50th), Sen. Still (48th), Sen. Tillery (19th), and Sen. Watson (1st) voted in opposition to the motion.

The Chair recognized Sen. Parent (44th) who made a motion to **Amend** by adopting AM 44 0209ER:

Amend SB 36 (LC 44 2920ER) by replacing line 67 with the following:

> benefits, or exemptions.
>
> 50-15A-5.
> (a) No action shall be brought under this chapter unless, at least 60 days before bringing such action, the claimant gives written notice to the government setting forth the particular act and manner by which the claimant's free exercise of religion has been substantially burdened by an exercise of governmental authority.

(b) A claimant may, without regard to such 60 day period, bring an action for declaratory or injunctive relief and associated attorney's fees, court costs, and other reasonable expenses, if the alleged burden is imminent and the claimant was not informed and did not otherwise have knowledge of the exercise of the governmental authority in time to comply with such 60 day period.
(c) If the claimant's burden has been cured by action of the government, narrowly tailored 14 to remove the alleged burden, no action shall be brought under this chapter."

Sen. Jones II (22nd) seconded the motion. The motion failed by a vote of 3-7.

Sen. Jones II (22nd), Sen. Parent (44th), and Sen. Rhett (33rd) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Dolezal (27th), Sen. Echols (49th), Sen. Gooch (51st), Sen. Hatchett (50th), Sen. Still (48th), Sen. Tillery (19th), and Sen. Watson (1st) voted in opposition to the motion.

The Chair called for a vote on the motion **SB 36 Do Pass (LC 44 2920ER)**. The motion passed by a vote of 7-3.

Sen. Dolezal (27th), Sen. Echols (49th), Sen. Gooch (51st), Sen. Hatchett (50th), Sen. Still (48th), Sen. Tillery (19th), and Sen. Watson (1st) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Jones II (22nd), Sen. Parent (44th), and Sen. Rhett (33rd) voted in opposition to the motion.

Committee Recommendation: SB 36 DO PASS (LC 44 2920ER)

Chairman Strickland (42nd) adjourned the meeting at 3:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/
Sen. Brian Strickland (42nd), Chairman

/s/
Hannah Holcomb, Recording Secretary

OFFICE OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
240 STATE CAPITOL
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334

BURT JONES
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

February 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 Drew Echols as an ex-officio member of the Senate Judiciary Committee for the committee meeting to be held on February 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

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Judiciary
Monday, March 3, 2025

The Senate Committee on Judiciary met on Monday, March 3, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Brian Strickland (42nd), Chairman
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Vice-Chairman (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. John F. Kennedy (18th), Secretary (*Arrived Late*) (*Left Early*)
Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th), Ex-Officio (*Left Early*)
Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Ex-Officio (*Left Early*)
Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th)
Sen. Harold Jones II (22nd) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Elena Parent (44th) (*Arrived Late*) (*Left Early*)
Sen. Michael 'Doc' Rhett (33rd)
Sen. Shawn Still (48th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Ben Watson (1st)

NOTE: Sen. Blake Tillery (19th) was absent.

Chairman Strickland (42nd) called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

NOTE: Sen. Parent (44th) arrived at 10:07 a.m.
NOTE: Sen. Jones II (22nd) arrived at 10:09 a.m.
NOTE: Sen. Cowsert (46th) arrived at 10:10 a.m.
NOTE: Sen. Kennedy (18th) arrived at 10:10 a.m.

SB 27 (Sen. Albers, 56th, LC 44 2937) Stalking; offense of doxing; penalties; protective order; provide

The Chair recognized Sen. Albers (56th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Albers (56th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair recognized Sen. Rhett (33rd) who made a motion that **SB 27 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 44 3104S)**. Sen. Hatchett (50th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SB 27 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 44 3104S)

SB 61 (Sen. Dolezal, 27th, LC 49 2069) Delinquency; additional offenses over which superior courts are authorized to exercise exclusive original jurisdiction; provide

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

The Chair recognized Sen. Hatchett (50th) who made a motion that **SB 61 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 49 2320S)**. Sen. Kennedy (18th) seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-2.

Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Dolezal (27th), Sen. Gooch (51st), Sen. Hatchett (50th), Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Jones II (22nd), and Sen. Watson (1st) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Parent (44th) and Sen. Rhett (33rd) voted in opposition to the motion.

Committee Recommendation: SB 61 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 49 2320S)

SB 179 (Sen. Dixon, 45th, LC 49 2223) Education; the academic and disciplinary records of each transferring student shall be provided within five days; require

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

Testimony in favor of the Bill:
Tom Bauer, GA School Counselor

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:
Thomas Weaver, Private Citizen

The Chair recognized Sen. Cowsert (46th) who made a motion that **SB 179 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 49 2318S)**. Sen. Kennedy (18th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SB 179 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 49 2318S)

SB 244 (Sen. Beach, 21st, LC 28 0678) Criminal Proceedings; the award of reasonable attorney's fees and costs in a criminal case to the defendant upon such defendant making a successful motion to disqualify the prosecuting attorney for misconduct in connection with the case; provide

The Chair recognized Sen. Brandon Beach (21st) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Beach (21st) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair recognized Sen. Dolezal (27th) who made a motion that **SB 244 Do Pass (LC 28 0678)**. Sen. Watson (1st) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SB 244 DO PASS (LC 28 0678)

SB 189 (Sen. Williams, 25th, LC 47 3349) Criminal Proceedings; the award of reasonable attorney's fees and costs in a criminal case to the defendant upon such defendant making a successful motion to disqualify the prosecuting attorney for misconduct in connection with the case; provide

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

Testimony in favor of the Bill:
None

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:
Ragen Marsh, Troutman Pepper/ GA Press Association
Jailene Huntz, Troutman Pepper/ GA Press Association

Committee Recommendation: SB 189 (LC 47 3349) No action was taken

SB 204 (Sen. Jones II, 22nd, LC 49 2247) Criminal Procedure; offenses that are not serious violent felonies, sexual felonies, or other certain offenses to be charged by accusation of the district attorney; allow

The Chair recognized Sen. Jones II (22nd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Jones II (22nd) presented the bill to the Committee.

Testimony in favor of the Bill:
None

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:
Thomas Weaver, Private Citizen
Jared Williams, District Attorney
Randy McGinley, District Attorney
Mazie Lynn Guertin, GACDL
Adrienne Browning, GACDL

NOTE: Sen. Still (48th) arrived at 11:18 a.m.
NOTE: Sen. Kennedy (18th) left early at 11:18 a.m.
NOTE: Sen. Gooch (51st) left early at 11:18 a.m.
NOTE: Sen. Dolezal (27th) left early at 11:18 a.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Rhett (33rd) who made a motion that **SB 204 Do Pass (LC 49 2247)**. Sen. Parent (44th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 6-1.

Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Hatchett (50th), Sen. Jones II (22nd), Sen. Parent (44th), Sen. Rhett (33rd), and Sen. Still (48th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Watson (1st) voted in opposition to the motion.

Committee Recommendation: SB 204 DO PASS (LC 49 2247)

NOTE: Sen. Parent (44th) left early at 11:19 a.m.

SB 268 (Sen. Robertson, 29th, LC 56 0346) Offenses against public order; crime of interference with a first responder; provide

The Chair recognized Sen. Randy Robertson (29th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Robertson (29th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair recognized Sen. Cowsert (46th) who made a motion that **SB 268 Do Pass (LC 56 0346)**. Sen. Hatchett (50th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SB 268 DO PASS (LC 56 0346)

SB 298 (Sen. Robertson, 29th, LC 48 1544) Offenses against public order; crime of interference with a first responder; provide

The Chair recognized Sen. Robertson (29th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Robertson (29th) presented the bill to the Committee.

Testimony in favor of the Bill:
Larry Ramsey, ACCG/ General Counsel
Rusi Patel, GMA/ General Counsel

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:
None

The Chair recognized Sen. Jones II (22nd) who made a motion that **SB 298 Do Pass (LC 48 1544)**. Sen. Cowsert (46th) seconded the motion.

The Chair recognized Sen. Cowsert (46th) who made a motion to **Amend** by on line 24 insert "The right of direct appeal, under this paragraph, shall not be exercised by any one party more than once in any civil action." after "ruling." Sen. Watson (1st) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair called for a vote on the motion that **SB 298 Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Cowsert (46th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SB 298 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 49 2325S)

SR 262 (Sen. Cowsert, 46th, LC 55 0538) Article V of the United States Constitution; A convention of the states; apply

The Chair recognized Sen. Cowsert (46th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Cowsert (46th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair recognized Sen. Watson (1st) who made a motion that **SR 262 Do Pass (LC 55 0538)**. Sen. Hatchett (50th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SR 262 DO PASS (LC 55 0538)

SB 279 (Sen. Strickland, 42nd, LC 62 0140) "Daniel D. Podsiadly, Jr. Act"' enact

The Chair presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair recognized Sen. Cowsert (46th) who made a motion that **SB 279 Do Pass (LC 62 0140)**. Sen. Watson (1st) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SB 279 DO PASS (LC 62 0140)

Chairman Strickland (42nd) adjourned the meeting at 11:33 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/
Sen. Brian Strickland (42nd), Chairman

/s/
Hannah Holcomb, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Judiciary
Monday, March 10, 2025

The Senate Committee on Judiciary met on Monday, March 10, 2025 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Brian Strickland (42nd), Chairman
Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th)
Sen. Harold Jones II (22nd)
Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Elena Parent (44th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Michael 'Doc' Rhett (33rd) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Shawn Still (48th)
Sen. Ben Watson (1st)

NOTE: Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Vice-Chairman, Sen. John F. Kennedy (18th), Secretary, Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Ex-Officio, and Sen. Blake Tillery (19th) were absent.

Chairman Strickland (42nd) called the meeting to order at 4:38 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Parent (44th) arrived at 4:40 p.m.

HB 199 (Rep. Kelley, 16th, LC 48 1439S) Courts; Protection of personally identifiable information of judges and their spouses; modify provisions

NOTE: Sen. Rhett (33rd) arrived at 4:41 p.m.

The Chair recognized Rep. Trey Kelley (16th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Kelley (16th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair recognized Sen. Dolezal (27th) who made a motion **HB 199 Do Pass (LC 48 1439S)**. Sen. Rhett (33rd) seconded the motion.

The Chair recognized Sen. Hatchett (50th) who made a motion to **Amend** by striking "or" and inserting "," on line 18 and inserting ", or property or tax records" on line 19 after "address", striking "superior" on line 36, striking "including, but not limited to, such protected person's property or tax records" on line 75, and inserting "(a)" on line 99. Sen. Watson (1st) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair called for a vote on the motion that **HB 199 Do Pass by Substitute.** Sen. Rhett (33rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Tillery (19th)

Committee Recommendation: HB 199 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 49 2339S)

HB 176 (Rep. Smith, 18th, LC 48 1509S) Appeal and Error; judgements deemed directly appealable; change a provision

The Chair recognized Rep. Tyler Paul Smith (18th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Smith (18th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair recognized Sen. Hatchett (50th) who made a motion that **HB 176 Do Pass (LC 48 1509S)**. Sen. Dolezal (27th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Strickland (42nd)

Committee Recommendation: HB 176 DO PASS (LC 48 1509S)

HB 180 (Rep. Smith, 18th, LC 48 1401) Probate courts; modify certain requirements for probate judges

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

The Chair recognized Sen. Hatchett (50th) who made a motion that **HB 180 Do Pass (LC 48 1401)**. Sen. Still (48th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Hatchett (50th)

Committee Recommendation: HB 180 DO PASS (LC 48 1401)

HB 55 (Rep. Ford, 170th, LC 48 1425S) Alapaha Judicial Circuit; superior courts; provide for an additional judge

The Chair recognized Rep. Jaclyn Ford (170th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Ford (170th) presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Jones II (22nd) arrived at 5:00 p.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Hatchett (50th) who made a motion that **HB 55 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 44 3067S)**. Sen. Parent (44th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Goodman (8th)

Committee Recommendation: HB 55 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 44 3067S)

HB 406 (Rep. Leverett, 123rd, LC 56 0335S) Judicial Retirement System; Increase retirement age of superior court judges first taking office on or after July 1, 2026

The Chair recognized Rep. Rob Leverett (123rd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Leverett (123rd) presented the bill to the Committee.

Testimony in favor of the Bill:
Jim Potrin, ERS of GA/ Exec. Dir.

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:
None

The Chair recognized Sen. Hatchett (50th) who made a motion that **HB 406 Do Pass (LC 56 0335S)**. Sen. Parent (44th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Hatchett (50th)

Committee Recommendation: HB 406 DO PASS (LC 56 0335S)

Chairman Strickland (42nd) adjourned the meeting at 5:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/
Sen. Brian Strickland (42nd), Chairman

/s/
Hannah Holcomb, Recording Secretary

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

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

Sen. Brian Strickland (42nd), Chairman
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. John F. Kennedy (18th), Secretary (*Left Early*)
Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th)
Sen. Harold Jones II (22nd) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Elena Parent (44th)
Sen. Michael 'Doc' Rhett (33rd) (*Arrived Late*) (*Left Early*)
Sen. Shawn Still (48th)
Sen. Ben Watson (1st) (*Arrived Late*)

NOTE: Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th), Ex-Officio, Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Ex-Officio, Sen. Blake Tillery (19th) were absent.

Chairman Strickland (42nd) called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Rhett (33rd) arrived at 12:05 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Jones II (22nd) arrived at 12:05 p.m.

HB 392 (Rep. Martin, 49th, LC 28 0667) Georgia Tax Court; certain events; revise dates

The Chair recognized Rep. Chuck Martin (49th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Martin (49th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair recognized Sen. Watson (1st) who made a motion that **HB 392 Do Pass (LC 28 0667)**. Sen. Still (48th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Strickland (42nd)

Committee Recommendation: HB 392 DO PASS (LC 28 0667)

HB 86 (Rep. Leverett, 123rd, LC 47 3171) Public officers and employees; calculating and setting the salaries of certain state officials; revise provisions

The Chair recognized Rep. Rob Leverett (123rd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Leverett (123rd) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair recognized Sen. Hatchett (50th) who made a motion that **HB 86 Do Pass (LC 47 3171)**. Sen. Kennedy (18th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Hatchett (50th)

Committee Recommendation: HB 86 DO PASS (LC 47 3171)

HB 270 (Rep. Reeves, 99th, LC 48 1536S) Eviction Service and Airplane Evictions; enact

The Chair recognized Rep. Matt Reeves (99th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Reeves (99th) presented the bill to the Committee.

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

Testimony in favor of the bill:
Elizabeth Appley, Attorney

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:
None

The Chair recognized Sen. Rhett (33rd) who made a motion that **HB 270 Do Pass (LC 48 1536S)**. Sen. Parent (44th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Hatchett (50th)

Committee Recommendation: HB 270 DO PASS (LC 48 1536S)

HB 483 (Rep. Prince, 132nd, LC 48 1558S) Crimes and offenses; protections for inspectors of code enforcement; provide

The Chair recognized Rep. Brian Prince (132nd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Prince (132nd) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair recognized Sen. Jones II (22nd) who made a motion that **HB 483 Do Pass (LC 1558S)**. Sen. Cowsert (46th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

NOTE: Sen. Watson (1st) arrived at 12:27 p.m.

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Cowsert (46th)

Committee Recommendation: HB 483 DO PASS (LC 48 1558S)

HB 618 (Rep. Campbell, 171st, LC 52 0793) Property; require any seller of real property to make certain disclosures regarding flood damage to such real property

The Chair recognized Rep. Joe Campbell (171st) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Campbell (171st) presented the bill to the Committee.

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

Testimony in favor of the Bill:
None

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:
Matthew Totten, Attorney/ Totten Firm
Jeff Ledford, REALTORS

Committee Recommendation: HB 618 (LC 52 0793) No action was taken

HB 161 (Rep. Crowe, 118th, LC 56 311S) Georgia Bureau of Investigation; Authority to issue subpoenas of electronic communication records for purposes of investigating certain cyber enabled threats to life and property; provide

NOTE: Sen. Kennedy (18th) left early at 12:57 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Rhett (33rd) left early at 1:07 p.m.

The Chair recognized Rep. Clint Crowe (118th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Crowe (118th) presented the bill to the Committee.

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

Testimony in favor of the Bill:
Sara Lowl, GBI
Robert Smith, PAC

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:
None

The Chair recognized Sen. Cowsert (46th) who made a motion that **HB 161 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 62 0177S)**. Sen. Hatchett (50th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Senate Sponsor: Sen. John Albers (56th)

Committee Recommendation: HB 161 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 62 0177S)

Chairman Strickland (42nd) adjourned the meeting at 1:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/
Sen. Brian Strickland (42nd), Chairman

/s/
Hannah Holcomb, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Judiciary
Wednesday, March 19, 2025

The Senate Committee on Judiciary met on Wednesday, March 19, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Brian Strickland (42nd), Chairman
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Vice-Chairman (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. John F. Kennedy (18th), Secretary (*Left Early*)
Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th)
Sen. Harold Jones II (22nd) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Elena Parent (44th)
Sen. Michael 'Doc' Rhett (33rd) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Shawn Still (48th)
Sen. Ben Watson (1st)

NOTE: Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th), Ex-Officio, Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Ex-Officio, and Sen. Blake Tillery (19th) were absent.

Chairman Strickland (42nd) called the meeting to order at 11:13 a.m.

HB 177 (Rep. Cooper, 45th, LC 57 0200) Domestic relations; protection for household pets in both family violence and dating violence protective orders; provide

The Chair recognized Rep. Sharon Cooper (45th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Cooper (45th) presented the bill to the Committee.

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

Testimony in favor of the Bill:
Karimah Dillard, GCADV
Dr. Jennifer Bivins, GNESA
Lisa Mello, Lifesafe

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:
None

The Chair recognized Sen. Parent (44th) who made a motion that **HB 177 Do Pass (LC 57 0200)**. Sen. Still (48th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Strickland (42nd)

Committee Recommendation: HB 177 DO PASS (LC 57 0200)

NOTE: Sen. Rhett (33rd) arrived at 11:20 a.m.

HB 85 (Rep. Leverett, 123rd, LC 47 3366S) Superior Court Judiciary Compensation Reform Act; enact

NOTE: Sen. Cowsert (46th) arrived at 11:25 a.m.
NOTE: Sen. Jones II (22nd) arrived at 11:28 a.m.

The Chair recognized Rep. Rob Leverett (123rd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Leverett (123rd) presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Hatchett (50th) left at 11:32 a.m.
NOTE: Sen. Hatchett (50th) returned at 11:33 a.m.

The Chair recognized Sen Kennedy (18th) who made a motion that **HB 85 Do Pass (LC 47 3366S)**. Sen. Hatchett (50th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Hatchett (50th)

Committee Recommendation: HB 85 DO PASS (LC 47 3366S)

HB 327 (Rep. Leverett, 123rd, LC 48 1516S) Official Code of Georgia Annotated; amend various titles

The Chair recognized Rep. Leverett (123rd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Leverett (123rd) presented the bill to the Committee.

Testimony in favor of the Bill:
James Hass, State Bar of GA

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:
None

The Chair recognized Sen Watson (1st) who made a motion that **HB 327 Do Pass (LC 48 1516S)**. Sen. Still (48th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Kennedy (18th)

Committee Recommendation: HB 327 DO PASS (LC 48 1516S)

HB 530 (Rep. Leverett, 123rd, LC48 1457) Courts; Authorization for electronic filing of pleadings in probate court; provide

NOTE: Sen. Jones II (22nd) left at 11:39 a.m.

The Chair recognized Rep. Leverett (123rd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Leverett (123rd) presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Kennedy (18th) left early at 11:42 a.m.
NOTE: Sen. Jones II (22nd) returned at 11:42 a.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Hatchett (50th) who made a motion that **HB 530 Do Pass (LC 48 1457)**. Sen. Watson (1st) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Hatchett (50th)

Committee Recommendation: HB 530 DO PASS (LC 48 1457)

HB 535 (Rep. Smith, 18th, LC 48 1478) Penal Institutions; credit for time served regarding probation revocation sentencing; provide

The Chair recognized Rep. Tyler Paul Smith (18th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Smith (18th) presented the bill to the Committee.

Testimony in favor of the Bill:
Wade Askew, Policy Director GJP

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:
None

The Chair recognized Sen. Cowsert (46th) who made a motion that **HB 535 Do Pass (LC 48 1478)**. Sen. Jones II (22nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Cowsert (46th)

Committee Recommendation: HB 535 DO PASS (LC 48 1478)

HB 222 (Rep. Blackmon, 146th, LC 48 1345) Criminal Procedure; Inclusion of certain contact information on bonds and recognizances; require

The Chair recognized Rep. Shaw Blackmon (146th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Blackmon (146th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair recognized Sen Rhett (33rd) who made a motion that **HB 222 Do Pass (LC 48 1345)**. Sen. Cowsert (46th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Larry Walker III (20th)

Committee Recommendation: HB 222 DO PASS (LC 48 1345)

HB 325 (Rep. Martinez, 111th, LC 46 1038) Domestic relations; Protective order registry; revise certain definitions

The Chair recognized Rep. Reynaldo Martinez (111th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Martinez (111th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair recognized Sen. Still (48th) who made a motion that **HB 325 Do Pass (LC 46 1038)**. Sen. Parent (44th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Strickland (42nd)

Committee Recommendation: HB 325 DO PASS (LC 46 1038)

HB 384 (Rep. Seabaugh, 34th, LC 56 0363S) Crimes and offenses; uniform oaths to be sworn by all peace officers; provide

The Chair recognized Rep. Devon Seabaugh (34th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Seabaugh (34th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair recognized Sen Watson (1st) who made a motion that **HB 384 Do Pass (LC 56 0363S)**. Sen. Rhett (33rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 5-2.

Sen. Hatchett (50th), Sen. Parent (44th), Sen. Rhett (33rd), Sen. Still (48th), and Sen. Watson (1st) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Cowsert (46th) and Sen. Jones II (22nd) voted in opposition to the motion.

Senate Sponsor: Sen. John Albers (56th)

Committee Recommendation: HB 384 DO PASS (LC 56 0363S)

Chairman Strickland (42nd) adjourned the meeting at 12:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/
Sen. Brian Strickland (42nd), Chairman

/s/
Hannah Holcomb, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Senate Subcommittee on Judiciary
Wednesday, March 19, 2025

The Senate Subcommittee on Judiciary met on Wednesday, March 19, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. in Room 125 of the State Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th), Chairman
Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th)
Sen. Elena Parent (44th)

NOTE: Sen. Ben Watson (1st) was absent.

Chairman Dolezal (27th) called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

HB 267 (Rep. Bonner, 73rd, LC 49 2300S) Riley Gaines Act; enact

The Chair recognized Rep. Josh Bonner (73rd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Bonner (73rd) and Chelsea Thompson, with Frontline Policy Council, presented the bill to the committee.

NOTE: Sen. Hatchett arrived late at 5:05 p.m.

Testimony in favor of the Bill:
Mike Griffin, Georgia Baptist Mission Board

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:
Sarah Hunt-Blackwell, American Civil Liberties Union of Georgia
Noel Heatherland, Georgia Equality
Dr. Jason Schneider, Private Citizen
Elle Knot, Young Women's Christian Association
Marissa Pyle, Private Citizen
Carrie Scott, Private Citizen
Brooke Mels, Private Citizen

Committee Recommendation: HB 267 (LC 49 2300S) No action was taken

Chairman Dolezal (27th) adjourned the meeting at 6:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/
Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th), Chairman

/s/
Orla Fennell, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Judiciary
Thursday, March 20, 2025

The Senate Committee on Judiciary met on Thursday, March 20, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Brian Strickland (42nd), Chairman
Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th)
Sen. Harold Jones II (22nd)
Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Ex-Officio
Sen. Elena Parent (44th)
Sen. Michael 'Doc' Rhett (33rd)
Sen. Shawn Still (48th)

NOTE: Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Vice-Chairman, Sen. John F. Kennedy (18th), Secretary, Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th), Ex-Officio, Sen. Blake Tillery (19th), and Sen. Ben Watson (1st) were absent.

Chairman Strickland (42nd) called the meeting to order at 4:19 p.m.

HB 288 (Rep. Gaines, 120th, LC 56 0365S) Appeal and error; declaratory judgements in instances involving accusations made by a prosecuting attorney regarding credibility of a peace officer; provide

The Chair recognized Rep. Houston Gaines (120th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Gaines (120th) presented the bill to the Committee.

Testimony in favor of the Bill:
Lance J. LaRusso, PAC

Testimony in opposition of the Bill:
Tyler Mann, Dekalb County District Attorney's Office

The Chair recognized Sen. Parent (44th) who made a motion that **HB 288 Do Pass (LC 56 0365S)**. Sen. Rhett (33rd) seconded the motion.

The Chair recognized Sen. Parent (44th) who made a motion to **Amend** by striking, on line 136, after the word "attorney" through the end of the paragraph and inserting in lieu thereof "of officers disqualified from trial testimony because of identified or alleged issues of credibility or bias." Sen. Jones II (22nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair called for a vote on the motion that **HB 288 Do Pass by Substitute**. The motion passed unanimously.

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Strickland (42nd)

Committee Recommendation: HB 288 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 62 0195S)

HB 378 (Rep. Momtahan, 17th, LC 48 1455) State courts of counties; online publishing of terms; provide

The Chair recognized Rep. Martin Momtahan (17th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Momtahan (17th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair recognized Sen Still (48th) who made a motion that **HB 378 Do Pass (LC 48 1455)**. Sen. Hatchett (50th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Hatchett (50th)

Committee Recommendation: HB 378 DO PASS (LC 48 1455)

HB 162 (Rep. Hagan, 150th, LC 48 1476S) Georgia Bureau of Investigation; Restriction and seal of First Offender Act sentences until such status is revoked; provide

The Chair recognized Rep. Leesa Hagan (150th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Hagan (150th) presented the bill to the Committee.

Testimony in favor of the Bill:
Wade Askew, GJP

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:
Thomas Weaver, Private Citizen

The Chair recognized Sen Parent (44th) who made a motion that **HB 162 Do Pass (LC 48 1476S)**. Sen. Hatchett (50th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Cowsert (46th)

Committee Recommendation: HB 162 DO PASS (LC 48 1476S)

HB 131 (Rep. Reeves, 99th, LC 62 0052) Self-Service storage facilities; revise advertisement requirements before an owner can enforce an owner's lien

The Chair recognized Rep. Matt Reeves (99th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Reeves (99th) presented the bill to the Committee.

Testimony in favor of the Bill:
Anne Bullard, GASSA
Jane Salls, GASSA
Megan Armstrong, GASSA/ Board Member

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:
Ragen Marsh, Troutman Pepper/ GA Press Association

The Chair recognized Sen. Jones II (22nd) who made a motion that **HB 131 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 62 019S)**. Sen. Rhett (33rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 4-1.

Sen. Hatchett (50th), Sen. Jones II (22nd), Sen. Parent (44th), and Sen. Rhett (33rd) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Still (48th) voted in opposition to the motion.

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Strickland (42nd)

Committee Recommendation: HB 131 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 62 0194S)

HB 447 (Rep. Gullett, 19th, LC 48 1574S) Crimes and offenses; crimes of gift card theft, gift card forgery, and gift card fraud; provide

The Chair recognized Rep. Joseph Gullett (19th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Gullet (19th) presented the bill to the Committee.

Testimony in favor of the Bill:
Ben Cowart, Georgia Retailers
Ben Bryant, INCOMM

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:
None

The Chair recognized Sen Still (48th) who made a motion that **HB 447 DO PASS (LC 48 1574S)**. Sen. Jones II (22nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Still (48th)

Committee Recommendation: HB 447 DO PASS (LC 48 1574S)

HB 123 (Rep. Werkheiser, 157th, LC 48 1378) Criminal Procedure; pretrial proceedings in capital offense cases where the death penalty is sought when the accused has intellectual disability; provide

The Chair recognized Rep. Bill Werkheiser (157th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Werkheiser (157th) presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Gooch (51st) arrived at 5:28 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Jones II (22nd) left at 6:04 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Jones II (22nd) returned at 6:12 p.m.

Committee Recommendation: HB 123 (LC 48 1378) No action was taken

Chairman Strickland (42nd) adjourned the meeting at 6:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/
Sen. Brian Strickland (42nd), Chairman

/s/
Hannah Holcomb, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on HB 268
Monday, March 24, 2025

The Senate Committee on Judiciary Subcommittee on HB 268 met on Monday, March 24, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. in Mezzanine 1 of the State Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Chairman
Sen. Shawn Still (48th)

NOTE: Sen. Michael 'Doc' Rhett (33rd) and Sen. Ben Watson (1st) were absent.

HB 268 (Persinger, 119th, LC 49 2328S) Education; Safety, health, and well-being of students and school communities; provide

The Chair recognized Rep. Holt Persinger (119th) for the purposes of presenting the bill. Rep. Persinger (119th) presented the bill to the committee.

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

Testimony in favor of the Bill:
Margaret Ciccarelli, PAGE
Kaitlin Ward, The Carter Center
Thomas Weaver, Private Citizen
Gail Smith, Georgia School Counselor Association
Mikayla Arciaga, IDRA
Mazie Lynn Guertin, GACDL
Linda Criblez, GEMA
Anna Burton, GEMA

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:
Rep. Mary Ann Santos (117th)
Megan Gordon, CAIR-Georgia
Jane Robbins, Constituent
Brett Chrome, Constituent
Rhonda Thomas, Truth in Education

Committee Recommendation: HB 268 (LC 49 2328S) No action was taken

Respectfully submitted,

/s/
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Chairman

/s/
Paige McKenna, Recording Secretary

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

The Senate Committee on Judiciary met on Wednesday, March 26, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Brian Strickland (42nd), Chairman
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. John F. Kennedy (18th), Secretary (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th)
Sen. Harold Jones II (22nd) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Ex-Officio (*Arrived Late*) (*Left Early*)
Sen. Elena Parent (44th)
Sen. Michael 'Doc' Rhett (33rd)
Sen. Shawn Still (48th) (*Left Early*)
Sen. Blake Tillery (19th) (*Arrived Late*) (*Left Early*)
Sen. Ben Watson (1st) (*Arrived Late*)

Chairman Strickland (42nd) called the meeting to order at 11:20 a.m.

HB 123 (Rep. Werkheiser, 157th, LC 48 1378) Criminal Procedure; pretrial proceedings in capital offense cases where the death penalty is sought when the accused has intellectual disability; provide

The Chair recognized Rep. Bill Werkheiser (157th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Werkheiser (157th) presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Tillery (19th) arrived at 11:25 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Kennedy (18th) arrived at 11:27 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Jones II (22nd) arrived at 11:29 p.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Rhett (33rd) who made a motion **HB 123 Do Pass by Substitute** (LC 62 0206S). Sen. Parent (44th) seconded the motion.

The Chair recognized Sen. Hatchett (50th) who made a motion to **Amend** by inserting "pursuant to subsection (b) of Code Section 5-6-34 or 5-7-1." on line 48. Sen. Kennedy (18th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair called for a vote on the motion **HB 123 Do Pass by Substitute** as Amended. Sen. Parent (44th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Strickland (42nd)

Committee Recommendation: HB 123 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 49 2386S)

HB 171 (Rep. Thomas, 21st, LC 48 1512S) Crimes and offenses; obscenity; repeal and replace code section 16-12-80

The Chair recognized Rep. Brad Thomas (21st) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Thomas (21st) presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Watson (1st) arrived at 11:36 a.m.
NOTE: Sen. Watson (1st) left at 11:40 a.m.
NOTE: Sen. Watson (1st) returned at 11:42 a.m.
NOTE: Sen. Gooch (51st) arrived at 11:46 a.m.
NOTE: Sen. Jones II (22nd) left at 11:51 a.m.
NOTE: Sen. Cowsert (46th) left at 11:55 a.m.
NOTE: Sen. Jones II (22nd) returned at 11:59 a.m.
NOTE: Sen. Gooch (51st) left at 12:01 p.m.

Testimony in favor of the Bill:
Katie Fullerton, Constituent
Mack Parnell, Georgia Faith and Freedom Coalition
Mazie Lynn Guertin, GACDL

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:
None

The Chair recognized Sen. Rhett (33rd) who made a motion that **HB 171 Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Dolezal (27th) seconded the motion.

The Chair recognized Sen. Dolezal (27th) who made a motion to **Amend** by striking Section 3. The motion was seconded by Sen. Tillery (19th). The motion passed by a vote of 6-3.

Sen. Dolezal (27th), Sen. Parent (44th), Sen. Jones II (22nd), Sen. Rhett (33rd), Sen. Tillery (19th), and Sen. Watson (1st) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Hatchett (50th), Sen. Kennedy (18th), and Sen. Still (48th) voted in opposition of the motion.

The Chair recognized Sen. Hatchett (50th) who made a motion to **Amend** by adding language allowing individuals under 18 to be convicted of a misdemeanor instead of a felony if they meet certain requirements. The motion was seconded by Sen. Rhett (33rd). The motion passed by a vote of 8-1.

Sen. Dolezal (27th), Sen. Hatchett (50th), Sen. Parent (44th), Sen. Rhett (33rd), and Sen. Tillery (19th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Jones II (22nd) voted in opposition of the motion.

The Chair called for a vote on the motion that **HB 171 Do Pass by Substitute as Amended**. Sen. Dolezal (27th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Senate Sponsor: Sen. John Albers (56th)

Committee Recommendation: HB 171 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 49 2387S)

HB 358 (Rep. Smith, 138th, LC 33 9770) Agriculture; prohibiting Acquisition of possessory interest in certain land by certain foreign persons and entities; provide for a definition

The Chair recognized Rep. Vance Smith (138th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Smith (138th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair recognized Sen Rhett (33rd) who made a motion that **HB 358 Do Pass (LC 33 9770)**. Sen. Kennedy (18th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Randy Robertson (29th)

Committee Recommendation: HB 358 DO PASS (LC 33 9770)

HB 430 (Rep. Sainz, 180th, LC 48 1571S) Sexual offender risk review board; venue for certain petitions regarding state sexual offender registry; provide

The Chair recognized Rep. Steven Sainz (180th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Sainz (180th) presented the bill to the Committee.

Testimony in favor of the Bill:
Terry Norris, Sheriffs Association
Shelby Daniels

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:
None

The Chair recognized Sen Hatchett (50th) who made a motion that **HB 430 Do Pass (LC 48 1571S)**. Sen. Rhett (33rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Still (48th)

Committee Recommendation: HB 430 DO PASS (LC 48 1571S)

HB 460 (Rep. Panitch, 51st, LC 48 1499S) evidence; exclude certain communications made between attorney and client when client is in a penal institution

The Chair recognized Rep. Esther Panitch (51st) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Panitch (51st) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair recognized Sen Parent (44th) who made a motion that **HB 460 Do Pass (LC 48 1499S)**. Sen. Jones II (22nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Cowsert (46th)

Committee Recommendation: HB 460 DO PASS (LC 48 1499S)

HB 531 (Rep. Reeves, 99th, LC 48 1560S) Appeal and error; certain appellate procedures regarding the denial of sovereign and any other immunity available to the state or a city or county in this state; provide

The Chair recognized Rep. Matt Reeves (99th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Reeves (99th) presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Cowsert (46th) returned at 12:45 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Gooch (51st) returned at 12:45 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Still (48th) left at 12:46 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Still (48th) returned at 12:50 p.m.

Testimony in favor of the Bill:
Andy Welch, Attorney
Rusi Patel, GMA General Counsel
Kurt Ward, Mayor of Braselton

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:
None

The Chair recognized Sen. Gooch (51st) who made a motion that **HB 531 Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Kennedy (18th) seconded the motion.

The Chair recognized Sen. Gooch (51st) who made a motion to **Amend** by striking "3" on line 41 and inserting "1" in lieu thereof and striking "5" on line 44 and inserting in lieu thereof "3" on line 44. The motion failed by a vote of 5-6.

Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Gooch (51st), Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Still (48th), and Sen. Watson (1st) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Hatchett (50th), Sen. Jones II (22nd), Sen. Parent (44th), Sen. Rhett (33rd), Sen. Tillery (19th), and Sen. Strickland (42nd) voted in opposition to the motion.

The Chair recognized Sen. Hatchett (50th) who made a motion to **Amend** by AM 33 2106, inserting on line 9 following "title;" the following: "to revise provisions relating to waiver of immunity by purchase of liability insurance;" and by inserting a new section "Section 3A" between lines 44 and 45, and conforming changes. Sen. Jones II (22nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 6-5.

Sen. Hatchett (50th), Sen. Jones II (22nd), Sen. Parent (44th), Sen. Rhett (33rd), Sen. Tillery (19th), and Sen. Strickland (42nd) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Still (48th), Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Gooch (51st), and Sen. Watson (1st) voted in opposition to the motion.

The Chair called for a vote on the motion that **HB 531 Do Pass by Substitute as Amended**. The motion passed by a vote of 7-3.

Sen. Hatchett (50th), Sen. Jones II (22nd), Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Parent (44th), Sen. Rhett (33rd), Sen. Tillery (19th), and Sen. Watson (1st) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Gooch (51st), and Sen. Still (48th) voted in opposition to the motion.

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Strickland (42nd)

Committee Recommendation: HB 531 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 49 2388S)

NOTE: Sen. Still (48th) left early at 1:10 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Tillery (19th) left early at 1:10 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Gooch (51st) left early at 1:10 p.m.

HB 627 (Rep. Persinger, 119th, LC 48 1566S) Courts; juvenile proceedings; use of a deadly weapon; revise a provision

The Chair recognized Rep. Holt Persinger (119th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Persinger (119th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair recognized Sen Hatchett (50th) who made a motion that **HB 627 Do Pass (LC 48 1566S)**. Sen. Cowsert (46th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Hatchett (50th)

Committee Recommendation: HB 627 DO PASS (LC 48 1566S)

HB 304 (Rep. Yearta, 152nd, LC 48 1432) Local Government; Georgia Municipal Court Clerks Council; create

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 recognized Sen Hatchett (50th) who made a motion that **HB 304 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 47 3598S)**. Sen. Kennedy (18th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Strickland (42nd)

Committee Recommendation: HB 304 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 47 3598S)

HB 179 (Rep. Smith, 18th, LC 48 1561S) Appellate Practice; digital recording of certain trial proceedings; provide

The Chair and Judge Lan presented the bill to the committee.

Testimony in favor of the Bill:
Edward Lindsay, Dentons
Adam Koelter, Dentons
Jennifer Pope
Terry Rogers

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:
None

The Chair recognized Sen Watson (1st) who made a motion that **HB 179 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 48 1604S)**. Sen. Kennedy (18th) seconded the motion.

The Chair recognized Sen. Watson (1st) who made a motion to **Amend** by inserting the language from LC 48 1561S on lines 128-151. Sen. Watson (1st) withdrew the amendment.

The Chair called for a vote on the motion **HB 179 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 48 1604S)**. The motion passed unanimously.

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Strickland (42nd)

Committee Recommendation: HB 179 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 48 1604S)

Chairman Strickland (42nd) adjourned the meeting at 1:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/
Sen. John F. Kennedy (18th), Secretary

/s/
Hannah Holcomb, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Judiciary
Thursday, March 27, 2025

The Senate Committee on Judiciary met on Thursday, March 27, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Brian Strickland (42nd), Chairman
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Vice-Chairman (*Left Early*)
Sen. John F. Kennedy (18th), Secretary (*Left Early*)
Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th), Ex-Officio (*Left Early*)
Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Ex-Officio (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Harold Jones II (22nd)
Sen. Elena Parent (44th)
Sen. Michael 'Doc' Rhett (33rd) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Shawn Still (48th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Sam Watson (11th), Ex-Officio (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Billy Hickman (4th), Ex-Officio (*Arrived Late*)

NOTE: Sen. Blake Tillery (19th) and Sen. Ben Watson (1st) were absent.

NOTE: Sen. Billy Hickman (4th) and Sen. Sam Watson (11th) were appointed to the Senate Committee of Judiciary, as Ex-Officio members, by the Committee on Assignments for the meeting held on March 27, 2025. Copies of the letters of appointment are attached.

Chairman Strickland (42nd) called the meeting to order at 5:50 p.m.

HB 268 (Rep. Persinger, 119th, LC 49 2328S) Education; Safety, Health, and well-being of students and school communities; provide

The Chair recognized Rep. Holt Persinger (119th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Persinger (119th) presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Rhett (33rd) arrived at 5:54 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Still (48th) arrived at 5:56 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Watson (11th) arrived at 5:57 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Hatchett (50th) arrived at 5:58 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Dolezal (27th) left early at 5:58 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Hickman (4th) arrived at 6:10 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Gooch (51st) arrived at 6:18 p.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Still (48th) who made a motion that **HB 268 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 49 2396S)**. Sen. Kennedy (18th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Cowsert (46th)

Committee Recommendation: HB 268 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 49 2396S)

HB 582 (Rep. Gunter, 8th, LC 48 1572S) Georgia Survivor Justice Act; enact

The Chair recognized Rep. Stan Gunter (8th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Gunter (8th) presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Hickman (4th) left early at 6:28 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Still (48th) left early at 6:28 p.m.

Testimony in favor of the Bill:
Ellie Williams, GACDL
Karimah Dillard, GACDL
Wade Askew, GJP

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:
None

The Chair recognized Sen Hatchett (50th) who made a motion that **HB 582 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 49 2384S)**. Sen. Cowsert (46th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Hatchett (50th)

Committee Recommendation: HB 582 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 49 2384S)

NOTE: Sen. Kennedy (18th) left at 6:34 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Hatchett (50th) left at 6:37 p.m.

HB 618 (Rep. Campbell, 171st, LC 52 0793) Property; require any seller of real property to make certain disclosures regarding flood damage to such real property

The Chair recognized Rep. Joe Campbell (171st) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Campbell (171st) presented the bill to the Committee.

Testimony in favor of the Bill:
Jeff Ledlford, Realtors
Anne Brody, American Flood Coalition Action

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:
None

NOTE: Sen. Cowsert (46th) left early at 6:41 p.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Jones II (22nd) who made a motion that **HB 618 Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Parent (44th) seconded the motion.

The Chair recognized Sen. Parent (44th) who made a motion to **Amend** by striking "any" before "attorney's fees" on line 56 and inserting "reasonable" in lieu thereof. Sen. Jones II (22nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair called for a vote on the motion that **HB 618 Do Pass by Substitute as Amended**. The motion passed unanimously.

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Watson (1st)

Committee Recommendation: HB 618 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 49 2399S)

HB 36 (Rep. Leverett, 123rd, LC 46 2063) Guardian and ward; revise list of providers who are authorized to participate in the process for appointment of a guardian for an adult

The Chair recognized Rep. Rob Leverett (123rd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Leverett (123rd) presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Hatchett (50th) returned at 6:54 p.m.

Testimony in favor of the Bill:
Judge Kelli Wolk, Council of Probate Judges/ Cobb County
Judge Kristin Poland, Private Citizen
Tom Black, PhD, LPCA
Elizabeth Appley, GAMFT

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:
Charlie Miller, GACDD
Charlotte Densmore, GCDD
Douglas Franks, CEAR Rep
Becky Harlow, CEAR Rep

The Chair recognized Sen Hatchett (50) who made a motion that **HB 36 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 44 3193ERS)**. Sen. Rhett (33rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Watson (1st)

Committee Recommendation: HB 36 DO PASS BY SUBSTITIUTE (LC 44 3193ERS)

Chairman Strickland (42nd) adjourned the meeting at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/
Sen. Brian Strickland (42nd), Chairman

/s/
Hannah Holcomb, Recording Secretary

OFFICE OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
240 STATE CAPITOL
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334

BURT JONES
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

March 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 Billy Hickman as an ex-officio member of the Senate Judiciary Committee for the committee meeting to be held on March 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 Sam Watson of the 11th District as an ex-officio member of the Judiciary 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