THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE ENVIRONMENT
2025-2026 ROSTER

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Sen. Sam Watson, Ex-Officio
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THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE ENVIRONMENT
2025-2026 RULES

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

2. The Chair shall convene, recess, and adjourn upon the order of the Chairman.

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

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

5. A bill, resolution, or other matter will be considered only after the presentation by its principal author or legislator whom he or she designated to do so. The principal author shall be the legislator whose name appears first on the list of authors.

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

7. Any member or members of the Committee who disagree(s) with the majority report of the Committee shall be privileged to file a minority report in writing, setting fourth concise reasons for their dissent.

8. Any individual wishing to video to video a meeting may ONLY set up video equipment in an approved location by the Chairman and only in so much as it does not disrupt or distract from the meeting.

9. There rules may be amended upon a motion duly made and subsequently approved by two thirds of the members of the Committee, in a meeting called by the Chairman, provided that written notice has been given to the Committee 48 hours prior to the Committee meeting.

10. The Rules of the Senate shall govern on all matters not addressed by these Committee rules.

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and the Environment
Monday, January 27, 2025

The Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Environment met on Monday, January 27th, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. in Senate Mezzanine 1 of the State Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Lee Anderson (24th), Chairman
Sen. Jason Anavitarte (31st), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Russ Goodman (8th), Secretary
Sen. Matt Brass (6th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Gail Davenport (17th)
Sen. Drew Echols (49th)
Sen. Frank Ginn (47th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Marty Harbin (16th)
Sen. Emanuel Jones (10th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Colton Moore (53rd)
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th)
Sen. Sam Watson (11th), Ex-Officio

NOTE: Sen. Nikki Merritt (9th) and Sen. Sheikh Rahman (5th) were absent.

Chairman Anderson (24th) called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

The Chair called for a vote to **Adopt** the Committee Rules. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Walter Rabon, Department of Natural Resources Commissioner
Dr. Tina Johannsen, Assistant Chief of the Wildlife Resources Division

NOTE: Sen. Jones (10th) arrived at 2:34 p.m.

Chairman Anderson (24th) adjourned the meeting at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/
Sen. Russ Goodman (8th), Secretary

/s/
Royce Crowe, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and the Environment
Thursday, February 27, 2025

The Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Environment met on Thursday, February 27th, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. in Senate Mezzanine 1 of the State Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Lee Anderson (24th), Chairman
Sen. Jason Anavitarte (31st), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Russ Goodman (8th), Secretary (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Matt Brass (6th), Ex-Officio (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Gail Davenport (17th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Drew Echols (49th)
Sen. Marty Harbin (16th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Nikki Merritt (9th)
Sen. Colton Moore (53rd)
Sen. Sam Watson (11th), Ex-Officio

NOTE: Sen. Frank Ginn (47th), Ex-Officio, Sen. Emanuel Jones (10th), Sen. Sheikh Rahman (5th), and Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th) were absent.

Chairman Anderson (24th) called the meeting to order 2:08 p.m.

HB 167 (Rep. Hagan, 156th, LC 44 2932) Game and fish; authorize fluorescent pink hunting outer garments

The Chair recognized Rep. Leesa Hagan (156th) to present the bill. Rep. Hagan (156th) presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Goodman (8th) and Sen. Harbin (16th) arrived at 2:11 p.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Moore (53rd) who made a motion that **HB 167 Do Pass (LC 44 2932).** Sen. Echols (49th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: HB 167 DO PASS (LC 44 2932)

HB 287 (Rep. Rhodes, 124th, LC 44 2970) Environmental Protection Division; Environmental Advisory Council; update reference date to standards, rules, and regulations

The Chair recognized Rep. Trey Rhodes (124th) to present the bill. Rep. Rhodes (124th) presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Davenport (17th) arrived at 2:17 p.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Goodman (8th) who made a motion that **HB 287 Do Pass (LC 44 2970).** Sen. Anavitarte (31st) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: HB 287 DO PASS (LC 44 2970)

SB 240 (Sen. Williams, 25th, LC 46 1131) Georgia Native Plant Month; designate April of each year

The Chair recognized Sen. Rick Williams (25th) to present the bill. Sen. Williams (25th) presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Brass (6th) arrived at 2:19 p.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Merritt (9th) who made a motion that **SB 240 Do Pass (LC 46 1131).** Sen. Echols (49th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SB 240 DO PASS (LC 46 1131)

Chairman Anderson (24th) adjourned the meeting at 2:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/
Sen. Russ Goodman (8th), Secretary

/s/
Royce Crowe, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and the Environment
Wednesday, March 19, 2025

The Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Environment met on Wednesday, March 19th, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. in Senate Mezzanine 1 of the State Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Lee Anderson (24th), Chairman
Sen. Jason Anavitarte (31st), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Russ Goodman (8th), Secretary
Sen. Gail Davenport (17th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Drew Echols (49th)
Sen. Frank Ginn (47th), Ex-Officio (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Nikki Merritt (9th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Colton Moore (53rd)
Sen. Sheikh Rahman (5th)
Sen. Sam Watson (11th), Ex-Officio

NOTE: Sen. Matt Brass (6th), Ex-Officio, Sen. Marty Harbin (16th), Sen. Emanuel Jones (10th), and Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th) were absent.

Chairman Anderson (24th) called the meeting to order 11:02 a.m.

HB 143 (Rep. Dickey, 134th, LC 44 3002S) Water resources; water-measuring devices for farm use of surface and ground water; revise provisions

The Chair recognized Rep. Robert Dickey (134th) to present the bill. Rep. Dickey (134th) presented the bill to the Committee.

Sen. Anavitarte (31st) made a motion that **HB 143 Do Pass (LC 44 3002S).** Sen. Moore (53rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: HB 143 DO PASS (LC 44 3002S)

HB 444 (Rep. Silcox, 53rd, LC 46 1081) Holidays; April of each year as Georgia Native Plant Month; designate

The Chair recognized Rep. Deborah Silcox (53rd) to present the bill. Rep. Silcox (53rd) presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Ginn (47th) arrived at 11:08 a.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Goodman (8th) who made a motion that **HB 444 Do Pass (LC 46 1081).** Sen. Anavitarte (31st) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: HB 444 DO PASS (LC 46 1081)

HB 115 (Rep. Petrea, 166th, LC 39 4617S) Natural Resources, Department of; certain notice upon registration of a vessel; provide

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

The Chair recognized Sen. Ginn (47th) who made a motion that **HB 115 Do Pass (LC 39 4617S).** Sen. Goodman (8th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: HB 115 DO PASS (LC 39 4617S)

HB 443 (Rep. Petrea, 166th, LC 44 3043) Game and fish; fees for reef and migratory fish endorsements; provide

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

NOTE: Sen. Davenport (17th) arrived at 11:13 a.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Goodman (8th) who made a motion that **HB 443 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 44 3166S).** Sen. Moore (53rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: HB 443 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 44 3166S)

HB 432 (Rep. Kelley, 16th, LC 44 3118S) Game and fish; Georgia turkey stamps; provide

The Chair recognized Rep. Trey Kelley (16th) to present the bill. Rep. Kelley (16th) presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Merritt (9th) arrived at 11:22 a.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Ginn (47th) who made a motion that **HB 432 Do Pass (LC 44 3118S).** Sen. Merritt (9th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 8 – 1.

Sen. Anavitarte (31st), Sen. Davenport (17th), Sen. Echols (49th), Sen. Ginn (47th), Sen. Goodman (8th), Sen. Merritt (9th), Sen. Rahman (5th), and Sen. Watson (11th) voted in favor of motion.

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

Committee Recommendation: HB 432 DO PASS (LC 44 3118S)

HB 491 (Rep. Chastain, 7th, LC 44 3109S) Game and fish; remove an exception for use of air guns to hunt wildlife

The Chair recognized Rep. Johnny Chastain (7th) to present the bill. Rep. Chastain (7th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair recognized Sen. Goodman (8th) who made a motion that **HB 491 Do Pass (LC 44 3109S).** Sen. Ginn (47th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: HB 491 DO PASS (LC 44 3109S)

HB 351 (Rep. Corbett, 174th, LC 44 3100S) Board of Natural Resources; modify powers and duties

The Chair recognized Rep. John Corbett (174th) to present the bill. Rep. Corbett (174th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair recognized Sen. Ginn (47th) who made a motion that **HB 351 Do Pass (LC 44 3100S).** Sen. Goodman (8th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: HB 351 DO PASS (LC 44 3100S)

Chairman Anderson (24th) adjourned the meeting at 11:41 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/
Sen. Russ Goodman (8th), Secretary

/s/
Royce Crowe, Recording Secretary