SENATE COMMITTEE ON REGULATED INDUSTRIES & UTILITIES
2025-2026 MEMBERS

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

Sen. Carden Summers, Vice-Chairman
District 13
108 East 13th Ave
Cordele, GA 31015

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

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

Sen. Tonya Anderson
District 43
P.O. Box 1026
Lithonia, GA 30058

Sen. Matt Brass
District 6
P.O. Box 1313
Newnan, GA 30264

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

Sen. Frank Ginn, Ex-Officio
District 47
P.O. Box 1136
Danielsville, GA 30633

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

Sen. Ed Harbison, Ex-Officio
District 15
P.O. Box 1292
Columbus, GA 31902

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

Sen. David Lucas
District 26
110-B State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334

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

Sen. Freddie Powell Sims, Ex-Officio
District 12
5377 Goose Hollow Road
Dawson, GA 31742

RULES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON REGULATED INDUSTRIES AND UTILITIES
2025-2026

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1. Quorum of the Committee shall be seven (7) members.

2. The Chair shall determine which bills, resolutions, substitutes or amendments are to be considered and the order in which said measures are considered.

3. The Chair shall appoint Subcommittees as needed with their appropriate Subcommittee chairs. 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 times as shall be designated by the Chairman.

4. The Committee shall convene, recess, put all questions, and adjourn upon the order of the Chair.

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. A bill, resolution, or other matter will be considered only after a presentation by its principal author or a legislator whom he or the Chairman designates to do so. In the event more than one member of the General Assembly has signed a measure, the principal author shall be the one whose name appears first in the list of authors.

7. Substitutes and amendments shall be provided to the Chairman in writing at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the hearing. The Chairman reserves the right to delay or decline action on any substitute or amendment not provided in advance.

8. 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.
9. Where these Rules are silent on a specific issue, the Rules of the Senate, as adopted, shall govern.

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

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Regulated Industries & Utilities
Tuesday, February 4, 2025

The Senate Committee on Regulated Industries & Utilities met on Tuesday, February 4, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. in Room 450 of the State Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Chairman
Sen. Carden Summers (13th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. John Albers (56th), Ex-Officio *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Tonya Anderson (43rd)
Sen. Matt Brass (6th)
Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th)
Sen. Frank Ginn (47th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Ed Harbison (15th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Harold Jones II (22nd)
Sen. David Lucas (26th)
Sen. Michael "Doc" Rhett (33rd)
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Ex-Officio

NOTE: Sen. John F. Kennedy (18th), Secretary, and Sen. Steve Gooch (51st) were absent.

Chairman Cowsert (46th) called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

The Chair presented the 2025-2026 Rules of the Senate Committee on Regulated Industries & Utilities. The Chair recognized Sen. Summers (13th) who made a motion that the Committee **Adopt the Rules**, Sen. Rhett (33rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

SB 13 (Sen. Summers, 13th, LC 47 3149) Georgia Environmental Finance Authority; finance and perform certain duties in connection with projects relating to natural gas facilities; authorize

The Chair recognized Sen. Summers (13th), Joel Wiggins from the Southern Group, and Matt Seale from Douglas-Coffee Chamber of Commerce to present the bill. Sen. Summers (13th), Joel Wiggins, and Matt Seale presented the bill to the Committee.

Testimony in opposition to the bill:
Mark Woodall with the Sierra Club

Testimony in favor of the bill:
None

The Chair recognized Sen. Ginn (47th) who made a motion that **SB 13 Do Pass (LC 47 3149).** Sen. Brass (6th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

NOTE: Sen. Albers arrived at 4:19 p.m.

Committee Recommendation: SB 13 DO PASS (LC 47 3149)

Chairman Cowsert (46th) adjourned the meeting at 4:23 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

/s/
Paige McKenna, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Regulated Industries & Utilities
Thursday, February 6, 2025

The Senate Committee on Regulated Industries & Utilities met on Thursday, February 6, 2025 at 3:30 p.m. in Room 450 of the State Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Chairman
Sen. Carden Summers (13th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. John Albers (56th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Tonya Anderson (43rd) *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Matt Brass (6th)
Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th) *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Frank Ginn (47th), Ex-Officio *(Arrived Late) (Left Early)*
Sen. Steve Gooch (51st) *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Ed Harbison (15th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Harold Jones II (22nd) *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Michael "Doc" Rhett (33rd) *(Arrived Late)*

NOTE: Sen. John F. Kennedy (18th), Secretary, Sen. David Lucas (26th), and Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Ex-Officio, were absent.

Chairman Cowsert (46th) called the meeting to order at 3:46 p.m.

SB 34 (Sen. Hufstetler, 52nd, LC 55 0415) Public Service Commission; costs incurred by an electric utility as a result of providing electric services to commercial data centers from being included in any rates; prohibit

The Chair recognized Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Hufstetler (52nd) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair stated that the bill would receive a hearing only.

NOTE: Sen. Anderson (43rd) arrived at 3:48 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Dolezal (27th) and Sen. Rhett (33rd) arrived at 3:50 p.m.

Testimony in favor of the bill:
Bob Sherrier with Southern Environmental Law Center (SELC)
Jennette Gayer with Environment Georgia
Julian Bene with Julian Bene & Associates

Testimony in opposition to the bill:
Aaron Mitchell with Georgia Power
Khara Boender with Data Center Coalition

NOTE: Sen. Albers (56th) left at 4:04 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Gooch (51st) arrived at 4:06 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Ginn (47th) arrived at 4:08 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Albers (56th) returned at 4:12 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Ginn (47th) left early at 4:23 p.m.

Committee Recommendation: SB 34 (LC 55 0415) No Action was Taken

SB 86 (Sen. Anavitarte, 31st, LC 55 0425) Alcoholic Beverages; retail dealers to offer discounts to consumers through premiums, coupons, or rebates on alcoholic beverages purchased for consumption off the premises; authorize

The Chair recognized Sen. Jason Anavitarte (31st) and Jeremy Collins with Total Wine for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Anavitarte (31st) and Mr. Collins presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair stated that the bill would receive a hearing only.

NOTE: Sen. Jones (22nd) arrived at 5:02 p.m.

Testimony in favor of the bill:
None

Testimony in opposition to the bill:
Stoney McGill with Georgia Alcohol Distributors Association
Mike Griffin with Georgia Baptist Mission Board
Rob Brewer, Constituent
Martin Smith with Georgia Beer Wholesalers

Committee Recommendation: SB 86 (LC 55 0425) No Action was Taken

Chairman Cowsert (46th) adjourned the meeting at 5:44 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

/s/
Paige McKenna, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Regulated Industries & Utilities
Tuesday, February 11, 2025

The Senate Committee on Regulated Industries & Utilities met on Tuesday, February 11, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. in Room 450 of the State Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Chairman
Sen. Carden Summers (13th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. John F. Kennedy (18th), Secretary
Sen. Tonya Anderson (43rd)
Sen. Matt Brass (6th)
Sen. Frank Ginn (47th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Steve Gooch (51st)
Sen. Ed Harbison (15th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Harold Jones II (22nd)
Sen. Michael 'Doc' Rhett (33rd)
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Ex-Officio

NOTE: Sen. John Albers (56th), Ex-Officio, Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th), and Sen. David Lucas (26th) were absent.

Chairman Cowsert (46th) called the meeting to order at 4:23 p.m.

SB 81 (Sen. Brass, 6th, LC 39 4551) Motor Vehicle Franchise Practices; protection of consumer data in motor vehicle sales; provide

The Chair recognized Sen. Brass (6th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Brass (6th) presented the bill to the Committee.

Testimony in favor of the bill:
Ben Jordan with Georgia Automobile Dealership Association
Rusty Sewell with Capitol Partners
Ragen Marsh with General Motors

Testimony in opposition to the bill:
None

The Chair recognized Sen. Brass (6th) who made a motion to **Amend** by adopting **AM 39 0443** which:

By replacing line 96 with the following:
Manufacturer, distributor, or affiliate thereof to require that the dealer provide, or use in accordance with

By replacing line 157 with the following:

Agreement with a manufacturer or distributor or an affiliate thereof; any governmental entity acting pursuant

By replacing lines 301 through 303 with the following:
Manufacturers, franchisor, or distributor wen such assistance was performed at the dealership or by dealership personnel at another location authorized by the manufacturer or distributor at the request of the customer or at the request of the manufacturer, franchisor, or distributor on behalf of the customer.

By replacing lines 373 through 376 with the following:
Binding on a dealer;
(v) Sales, leasing, marketing, or advertising activities of manufacturers, franchisors, and distributors by or through their line-make dealers in accordance with Article 22 of Chapter 1 of Title 10;
(vi) Facilitating a vehicle reservation system that allows a retail consumer to request the opportunity to purchase or lease a new vehicle, when the vehicle becomes available for sale to the public, through a franchised new motor vehicle dealer, provided that the final terms of sale are negotiated between the retail consumer and franchised new motor vehicle dealer; or
(vii) Processing a new vehicle sold order for a specific new motor vehicle entered by a franchised new motor vehicle dealer on behalf of a specific consumer. Provided that all final terms of sale are negotiated between franchised new motor vehicle dealer and the consumers.

Sen. Gooch (51st) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair recognized Sen. Gooch (51st) who made a motion that **SB 81 Do Pass by Substitute.** Sen. Kennedy (18th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair indicated his preference that the adopted amendment be incorporated into a perfected Committee Substitute.

Committee Recommendation: SB 81 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 55 0490S)

SB 112 (Sen. Dixon, 45th, LC 60 0068) Selling and other Trade Practices; certain protections for consumers relative to warranties of HVAC systems and components of such systems; extend

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:
Tucker Green with Conditioned Air Association of Georgia (CAAG)

Testimony in opposition to the bill:
None

The Chair recognized Sen. Summers (13th) who made a motion that **SB 112 Do Pass (LC 60 0068).** Sen. Brass (6th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SB 112 DO PASS (LC 60 0068)

SB 94 (Sen. Hufstetler, 52nd, LC 55 0447) Public Utilities and Public Transportation; a consumer utility counsel to represent consumers in matters before the Public Service Commission or other agencies concerning public utilities; reestablish

The Chair recognized Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Hufstetler (52nd) presented the bill to the Committee.

Testimony in favor of the bill:
None

Testimony in opposition to the bill:
Tom Bond with Georgia Public Service Commission

The Chair recognized Sen. Rhett (33rd) who made a motion that **SB 94 Do Pass (LC 55 0447).** Sen. Jones (22nd) seconded the motion.

The Chair recognized Sen. Jones (22nd) who motioned to **Amend** by adopting **AM 55 0069** to SB 94 (LC 55 0447) by replacing lines 44 and 45 with the following:

There is created the Office of the Consumers' Utility Counsel, which shall be assigned to the Department of Law for administrative purposes only as provided in Code Section 50-4-3. There is created the position of director.

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

The Chair called for a vote on the motion **SB 94 Do Pass by Substitute**. The motion passed by a vote of 6-5.

Sen. Anderson (43rd), Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Jones (22nd), Sen. Sims (12th), Sen. Harbison (15th), and Sen. Rhett (33rd) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Brass (6th), Sen. Ginn (47th), Sen. Gooch (51st), Sen. Kennedy (18th), and Sen. Summers (13th) voted in opposition to the motion.

Committee Recommendation: SB 94 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 55 0491S)

Chairman Cowsert (46th) adjourned the meeting at 5:51 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

/s/
Paige McKenna, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Regulated Industries & Utilities
Thursday, February 13, 2025

The Senate Committee on Regulated Industries & Utilities met on Thursday, February 13, 2025 at 3:30 p.m. in Room 450 of the State Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Chairman
Sen. Carden Summers (13th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. John F. Kennedy (18th), Secretary *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. John Albers (56th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Tonya Anderson (43rd)
Sen. Matt Brass (6th)
Sen. Michael "Doc" Rhett (33rd)
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Ex-Officio

NOTE: Sen. Dolezal (27th), Sen. Ginn (47th), Ex-Officio, Sen. Gooch (51st), Sen. Harbison (15th), Ex-Officio, Sen. Jones (22nd), and Sen. David Lucas (26th) were absent.

Chairman Cowsert (46th) called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m.

SB 125 (Sen. Walker, 20th, LC 46 9001) Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors; decouple the sequential order of experience and examination requirements

The Chair recognized Sen. Larry Walker, III (20th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Walker (20th) presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Kennedy (18th) arrived at 3:37 p.m.

Testimony in favor of the Bill:
Christy Tarallo with American Council of Engineering Companies of Georgia

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:
None

The Chair recognized Sen. Albers (56th) who made a motion that **SB 125 Do Pass (LC 46 9001)**. Sen. Sims (12th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SB 125 DO PASS (LC 46 9001)

SB 127 (Sen. Bearden, 30th, LC 55 0462) Contracts with Small Businesses; automatic renewal provisions; definitions; provide and revise

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

The Chair recognized Sen. Summers (13th) who made a motion that **SB 127 Do Pass (LC 55 0462).** Sen. Brass (6th) seconded the motion.

The Chair recognized Sen. Summers (13th) who made a motion to **Amend** by adopting **AM 55 0071**, creating an effective date of July 1, 2026. Sen. Albers (56th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair indicated his preference that the adopted amendment be incorporated into a perfected Committee Substitute.

The Chair called for a vote on **SB 127 Do Pass by Substitute**. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SB 127 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 55 0502S)

The Chair recognized the following for an update on broadband expansion in Georgia:
-Jessica Simmons with Georgia Technology Association
-Jason Bragg with Georgia EMC
-Rhonda Chatham with Georgia's Rural Telephone & Broadband Association
-Michael Foor with Windstream
-Hunter Hopkins with Georgia Cable Association
-Elizabeth Reynolds with AT&T

Chairman Cowsert (46th) adjourned the meeting at 4:38 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

/s/
Paige McKenna, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Regulated Industries & Utilities
Tuesday, February 18, 2025

The Senate Committee on Regulated Industries & Utilities met on Tuesday, February 18, 2025 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 450 of the State Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Chairman
Sen. Carden Summers (13th), Vice-Chairman *(Left Early)*
Sen. John Albers (56th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Tonya Anderson (43rd) *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Matt Brass (6th) *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Frank Ginn (47th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Ed Harbison (15th), Ex-Officio
Sen. David Lucas (26th)
Sen. Michael "Doc" Rhett (33rd)
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Ex-Officio *(Left Early)*

NOTE: Sen. John F. Kennedy (18th), Secretary, Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th) Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), and Sen. Harold Jones II (22nd) were absent.

Chairman Cowsert (46th) called the meeting to order at 4:39 p.m.

The Chair recognized Hunter Hopkins, the Executive Director of the Georgia Cable Association, for the purpose to providing the committee with an update on broadband.

SB 86 (Sen. Anavitarte, 31st, LC 55 0425) Alcoholic Beverages; retail dealers to offer discounts to consumers through premiums, coupons, or rebates on alcoholic beverages purchased for consumption off the premises; authorize

The Chair recognized Sen. Jason Anavitarte (31st) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Anavitarte (31st) presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Harbison (15th) left at 4:52 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Rhett (33rd) left at 4:54 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Harbison (15th) returned at 4:54 p.m.

Testimony in favor of the Bill:
None

Testimony in opposition to the bill:
Michael Mumper with Georgia Alcohol Prevention Alliance

NOTE: Sen. Rhett (33rd) returned at 4:58 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Brass (6th) arrived at 4:58 p.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Ginn (47th) who made a motion to **Amend** by adopting **Amendment (AM 55 0072)** to the proposed bill (LC 55 0425) by replacing lines 20 through 30 with the following:

"(3) All costs related to any such discount, including, but not limited to, printing, advertisement, redemption services, and the actual cost of the discount itself, are borne solely by the retail dealer and shall not be directly or indirectly sourced from a manufacturer premium, coupon, or rebate; and
(4) The discount does not result in any alcoholic beverages being sold at a price less than the cost which such retail dealer paid for such alcoholic beverages. As used in this paragraph, the term 'cost' means and includes the wholesale price plus the local excise tax imposed, as reflected in invoices which the commissioner may require to be maintained on the site of such retail dealer's place of business."

Sen. Albers (56th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 7-1.

Sen. Brass (6th), Sen. Albers (56th), Sen. Ginn (47th), Sen. Summers (13th), Sen. Rhett (33rd), Sen. Harbison (15th), and Sen. Lucas (26th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Sims (12th) voted in opposition to the motion.

The Chair recognized Sen. Ginn (47th) who made a motion that **SB 86 Do Pass by Substitute.** Sen. Albers (56th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SB 86 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 55 0515S)

SB 131 (Sen. Hodges, 3rd, LC 52 0604) Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce; Georgia Health Care Professionals Data System; establishment

The Chair recognized Sen. Mike Hodges (3rd) and Chet Bhasin from Georgia Department of Community Health for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Hodges (3rd) and Mr. Bhasin presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Ginn (47th) left at 5:08 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Ginn (47th) returned at 5:13 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Anderson (43rd) arrived at 5:15 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Ginn (47th) left at 5:18 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Ginn (47th) returned at 5:25 p.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Albers (56th) who made a motion to **Amend** by replacing lines 69 through 71 with the following:

"(2) Gender;
(3) Proficiency in English and other languages;
(4) Location of practice; and"

The Chair recognized Sen. Sims (12th) who seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair indicated his preference that the adopted amendment be incorporated into a perfected Committee Substitute.

The Chair recognized Sen. Brass (6th) who made a motion that **SB 131 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 55 0520S).** Sen. Summers (13th) seconded the motion. The motion passed 8-1.

Sen. Albers (56th), Sen. Anderson (43rd), Sen. Brass (6th), Sen. Ginn (47th), Sen. Harbison (15th), Sen. Lucas (26th), Sen. Rhett (33rd), and Sen. Summers (13th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Sims (12th) voted in opposition to the motion.

Committee Recommendation: SB 131 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 55 0520S)

NOTE: Sen. Albers (56th) left at 5:46 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Summers (13th) left early at 5:46 p.m.

SB 146 (Sen. Williams, 25th, LC 55 0470) Health, Local Government, and Property; regulations and protections of cemeteries and burial grounds; 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. Albers (56th) returned at 5:49 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Sims (12th) left early at 5:53 p.m.

The Chair stated that SB 146 would be a hearing only.

Committee Recommendation: SB 146 (LC 55 0470) No Action was Taken

Chairman Cowsert (46th) adjourned the meeting at 6:03 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

/s/
Paige McKenna, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Regulated Industries & Utilities
Thursday, February 20, 2025

The Senate Committee on Regulated Industries & Utilities met on Thursday, February 20, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. in Room 450 of the State Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Chairman *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Carden Summers (13th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. John F. Kennedy (18th), Secretary *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. John Albers (56th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Tonya Anderson (43rd) *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Matt Brass (6th)
Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th) *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Frank Ginn (47th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Steve Gooch (51st) *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Ed Harbison (15th), Ex-Officio
Sen. David Lucas (26th)
Sen. Michael "Doc" Rhett (33rd) *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Ex-Officio

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

Vice-Chairman Summers (13th) called the meeting to order at 4:16 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Anderson (43rd) arrived at 4:17 p.m.

SB 146 (Sen. Williams, 25th, LC 55 0470) Health, Local Government, and Property; regulations and protections of cemeteries and burial grounds; provide

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

NOTE: Sen. Cowsert (46th), Chairman, arrived at 4:25 p.m.
NOTE: Vice-Chairman Summers (13th) ceded the chair at 4:25 p.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Brass (6th) who made a motion that **SB 146 Do Pass (LC 55 0470).** Sen. Albers (56th) seconded the motion.

The Chair recognized Sen. Ginn (47th) who made a motion to **Amend** by inserting after line 437 the following:

"36-72-17
Except as otherwise provided in Code Section 36-72-15, nothing in this chapter shall preclude a person from seeking authorization directly from a probate court of competent jurisdiction to disinter human remains or otherwise disturb a burial ground, human remains, or a burial object."

Sen. Summers (13th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 6-2.

Sen. Anderson (43rd), Sen. Ginn (47th), Sen. Harbison (15th), Sen. Lucas (26th), Sen. Sims (12th), and Sen. Summers (13th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Albers (56th) and Sen. Brass (6th) voted in opposition to the motion.

NOTE: Sen. Gooch (51st) arrived at 4:33 p.m.

The Chair called for a vote on **SB 146 Do Pass by Substitute.** The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SB 146 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 55 0532S)

SB 33 (Sen. Kirkpatrick, 32nd, LC 55 0391) "Georgia Hemp Farming Act"; total THC concentration of consumable hemp products; provide limits

The Chair recognized Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Kennedy (18th) arrived at 4:38 p.m.

Testimony in favor of the bill:
Seth Harris with Georgia Faith & Recovery Collaborations
Anna Ruzicka with Medical Association of Georgia
Judy Craft, Constituent
Dr. Greg Raduka with Georgians for Responsible Marijuana Policy
Christina Vandever, Constituent

Testimony in opposition to the bill:
Erin Jimenez with Classic Citiva
Scott Ellison with THC ATL

NOTE: Sen. Dolezal (27th) arrived at 4:50 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Rhett (33rd) arrived at 4:57 p.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Gooch (51st) who made a motion **SB 33 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 55 0524S).** Sen. Sims (12th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SB 33 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 55 0524S)

The Chair appointed the following Subcommittees and assigned the following bills:

SB 203 (Sen. Anavitarte, 31st, LC 55 0481) "Georgia Homegrown Solar Act of 2025"; enact

Subcommittee Chair: Sen. Ginn (47th)

Members: Sen. Anderson (43rd), Sen. Brass (6th), Sen. Cowsert (46th), Ex-Officio, Sen. Gooch (51st), Sen. Rhett (33rd)

SB 122 (Sen. Albers, 56th, LC 55 0461) "Craft Beer and Local Economy Revitalization Act"; enact

Subcommittee Chair: Sen. Summers (13th)
Members: Sen. Cowsert (46th), Ex-Officio, Sen. Dolezal (27th), Sen. Harbison (15th), Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Lucas (26th)

Chairman Cowsert (46th) adjourned the meeting at 5:17 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

/s/
Paige McKenna, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Regulated Industries & Utilities
Tuesday, February 25, 2025

The Senate Committee on Regulated Industries & Utilities met on Tuesday, February 25, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. in Room 450 of the State Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Chairman
Sen. Carden Summers (13th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. John F. Kennedy (18th), Secretary
Sen. John Albers (56th), Ex-Officio *(Left Early)*
Sen. Tonya Anderson (43rd) *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Matt Brass (6th) *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th) *(Left Early)*
Sen. Frank Ginn (47th), Ex-Officio *(Left Early)*
Sen. Steve Gooch (51st) *(Arrived Late) (Left Early)*
Sen. Ed Harbison (15th), Ex-Officio *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Harold Jones II (22nd) *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. David Lucas (26th)
Sen. Michael "Doc" Rhett (33rd) *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Ex-Officio

Chairman Cowsert (46th) called the meeting to order at 11:07 a.m.

NOTE: Sen. Gooch (51st) arrived at 11:08 a.m.
NOTE: Sen. Gooch (51st) left at 11:09 a.m.
NOTE: Sen. Gooch (51st) returned at 11:09 a.m.
NOTE: Sen. Jones (22nd) arrived at 11:09 a.m.

SB 34 (Sen. Hufstetler, 52nd, LC 55 0415) Public Service Commission; costs incurred by an electric utility as a result of providing electric services to commercial data centers from being included in any rates; prohibit

The Chair recognized Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Hufstetler (52nd) presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Rhett (33rd) arrived at 11:16 a.m.
NOTE: Sen. Brass (6th) arrived at 11:18 a.m.

Testimony in favor of the bill:
Robert Banker, Constituent
Tom Bond with Georgia Public Service Commission
Tony West with Americans for Prosperity
Liz Coyle with Georgia Watch
Patty Durand with Cool Planet Solutions
John Duke, Constituent

Testimony in opposition to the bill:
Aaron Mitchell with Georgia Power
Kevin Curtin with Georgia Electric Membership Corp.

NOTE: Sen. Anderson (43rd) and Sen. Harbison (15th) arrived at 11:44 a.m.
NOTE: Sen. Harbison (15th) left at 11:49 a.m.
NOTE: Sen. Harbison (15th) returned at 11:55 a.m.
NOTE: Sen. Gooch (51st) left at 11:58 a.m.
NOTE: Sen. Gooch (51st) returned at 12:02 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Albers (56th) left at 12:16 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Albers (56th) returned at 12:22 p.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Summers (13th) who made a motion to **Amend** by moving lines 13-27 to Code Section 46-11-3, which applies to all electric service providers, as a new subsection (c) with the following changes:

Line 13 should be changed to "notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) and (b) of this Code section"
Replace the words "electric utility" on line 14 with "electric supplier"
Replace "approved or allowed to go into effect under Code Sections 46-2-25 or 46-25-26" on lines 19-20 with "of the electric supplier"

The motion failed for lack of a second.

The Chair recognized Sen. Albers (56th) who made a motion that **SB 34 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 55 0460S).** Sen. Sims (12th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 8-5.

Sen. Albers (56th), Sen. Anderson (43rd), Sen. Dolezal (27th), Sen. Harbison (15th), Sen. Jones (22nd), Sen. Rhett (33rd), Sen. Sims (12th), and Sen. Summers (13th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Brass (6th), Sen Ginn (47th), Sen. Gooch (51st), Sen. Kennedy (18th), and Sen. Lucas (26th) voted in opposition to the motion.

Committee Recommendation: SB 34 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 55 0460S)

NOTE: Sen. Ginn (47th) left early at 12:44 p.m.

SB 162 (Sen. Hufstetler, 52nd, LC 52 0744) Georgia Composite Medical Board; implement an automated credentialing system for healthcare providers in this state; provide

The Chair recognized Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Hufstetler (52nd) presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Rhett (33rd) left at 12:50 p.m.

Testimony in favor of the bill:
Ryan Miller with Georgia Hospital Association
Jason Jones with Georgia Composite Medical Board

Testimony in opposition to the bill:
None

NOTE: Sen. Rhett (33rd) returned at 12:54 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Harbison (15th) left at 12:56 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Harbison (15th) returned at 12:57 p.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Albers (56th) who made a motion to **Amend** by replacing the word "credentialing" on lines 3 and 12 with the word "licensing". Sen. Summers (13th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair indicated his preference that the adopted amendment be incorporated into a perfected committee substitute.

The Chair recognized Sen. Albers (56th) who made a motion that **SB 162 Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Anderson (43rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SB 162 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 55 0554S)

SB 142 (Sen. Jackson, 41st, LC 52 0750) Physicians; certain licensure for qualifying international medical graduates; provide

The Chair recognized Sen. Kim Jackson (41st) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Jackson (41st) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair stated at SB 142 would receive a hearing only.

NOTE: Sen. Albers (56th) and Sen. Gooch (51st) left early at 12:59 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Dolezal (27th) left early at 1:03 p.m.

Committee Recommendation: SB 142 (LC 52 0750) No Action was Taken

Chairman Cowsert (46th) adjourned the meeting at 1:04 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

/s/
Paige McKenna, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Regulated Industries & Utilities
Thursday, February 27, 2025

The Senate Committee on Regulated Industries & Utilities met on Thursday, February 27, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. in Room 450 of the State Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Chairman
Sen. Carden Summers (13th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. John Albers (56th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Tonya Anderson (43rd) *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Matt Brass (6th)
Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th) *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Frank Ginn (47th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Steve Gooch (51st) *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Ed Harbison (15th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Harold Jones II (22nd) *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. David Lucas (26th)
Sen. Michael "Doc" Rhett (33rd) *(Arrived Late) (Left Early)*
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Ex-Officio

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

Chairman Cowsert (46th) called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m.

SB 213 (Sen. Kirkpatrick, 32nd, LC 60 0080) "Fair Business Practices Act of 1975," commercial cheating services that target students and examinees seeking a professional license as an unlawful, unfair, and deceptive trade practice; ban

The Chair recognized Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair recognized Sen. Albers (56th) who made a motion that **SB 213 Do Pass (LC 60 0080)**. Sen. Harbison (15th) second the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SB 213 DO PASS (LC 60 0080)

SB 241 (Sen. Williams, 25th, LC 55 0530) Funeral Directors; organic human reduction as a means of disposing of deceased human bodies; 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. Sims (12th) left at 3:14 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Anderson (43rd) arrived at 3:19 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Anderson (43rd) left at 3:20 p.m.

Testimony in favor of the bill:
Cy Hume with A.S Turner & Sons

Testimony in opposition to the bill:
None

NOTE: Sen. Sims (12th) returned at 3:24 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Rhett (33rd) arrived at 3:24 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Jones (22nd) arrived at 3:25 p.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Summers (13th) who made a motion that **SB 241 Do Pass (LC 55 0530)**. Sen. Albers (56th) seconded the motion. The motion passes unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SB 241 DO PASS (LC 55 0530)

SR 131 (Sen. Summers, 13th, LC 55 0439) Sports Betting and Casino Gambling Activities; operation and regulation; authorize the Georgia General Assembly – CA

The Chair recognized Sen. Summers (13th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Summers (13th) presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Anderson (43rd) returned at 3:32 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Gooch (51st) arrived at 3:34 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Dolezal (27th) arrived at 3:34 p.m.

Testimony in favor of the bill:
None

Testimony in opposition to the bill:
Mike Griffin with Georgia Baptist Mission Board
Paul Smith with Citizen Impact
John Kindt, Professor

The Chair recognized Sen. Summers (13th) who made a motion that **SR 131 Do Pass (LC 55 0439)**. Sen. Brass (6th) seconded the motion. The motion failed by a vote of 3-9.

Sen. Brass (6th), Sen. Rhett (33rd), and Sen. Summers (13th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Albers (56th), Sen. Anderson (43rd), Sen. Dolezal (27th), Sen. Ginn (47th), Sen. Gooch (51st), Sen. Harbison (15th), Sen. Jones (22nd), Sen. Lucas (26th), and Sen. Sims (12th) voted in opposition to the motion.

Committee Recommendation: SB 131 (LC 55 0439) No Action was Taken

SB 254 (Sen. Cowsert, 46th, LC 55 0552) "Georgia Hemp Farming Act,"; delta-9-THC in

consumable hemp products; provide milligram limits

The Chair presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Rhett (33rd) left early at 4:05 p.m.

Testimony in favor of the bill:
Dr. Greg Raduka with Georgians for Responsible Marijuana Policy
Mike Griffin with Georgia Baptist Mission Board
Ashland Swann with Sun Med CBD

Testimony in opposition to the bill:
None

The Chair recognized Katherine Russel, Policy Director for the Georgia Department of Agriculture to speak to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Sims (12th) left at 4:36 p.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Ginn (47th) who made a motion that **SB 254 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 55 0561S)**. Sen. Gooch (51st) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 9-1.

Sen. Albers (56th), Sen. Anderson (43rd), Sen. Brass (6th), Sen. Dolezal (27th), Sen. Ginn (47th), Sen. Gooch (51st), Sen. Harbison (15th), Sen. Jones (22nd), and Sen. Lucas (26th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Summers (13th) voted in opposition to the motion.

NOTE: Sen. Sims (12th) returned at 4:45 p.m.

Committee Recommendation: SB 254 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 55 0561S)

Chairman Cowsert (46th) adjourned the meeting at 4:46 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

/s/
Paige McKenna, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Regulated Industries & Utilities
Friday, February 28, 2025

The Senate Committee on Regulated Industries & Utilities met on Friday, February 28, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. in Room 450 of the State Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Chairman
Sen. Carden Summers (13th), Vice-Chairman *(Left Early)*
Sen. John F. Kennedy (18th), Secretary
Sen. John Albers (56th), Ex-Officio *(Left Early)*
Sen. Tonya Anderson (43rd) *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Matt Brass (6th) *(Arrived Late) (Left Early)*
Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th) *(Arrived Late) (Left Early)*
Sen. Frank Ginn (47th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Ed Harbison (15th), Ex-Officio *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Harold Jones II (22nd)
Sen. David Lucas (26th)
Sen. Michael "Doc" Rhett (33rd)
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Ex-Officio *(Left Early)*

NOTE: Sen. Steve Gooch (51st) was absent.

Chairman Cowsert (46th) called the meeting to order at 1:26 p.m.

SB 256 (Sen. Cowsert, 46th, LC 55 0539) Electric Membership Corporation; disclose certain acquisitions and other information to its members within a certain time frame; require

The Chair presented the bill to the Committee.

Testimony in favor of the bill:
Kevin Curtin with Georgia Electric Membership Corp.
Ashley Jenkins with Gas South
Shea Ross Smith with Oglethorpe Power

Testimony in opposition to the bill:
None

NOTE: Sen. Harbison (15th) arrived at 1:29 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Brass (6th) arrived at 1:30 p.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Ginn (47th) who made a motion that **SB 256 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 55 0571S)**. Sen. Summers (13th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 9-1.

Sen. Brass (6th), Sen. Ginn (47th), Sen. Harbison (15th), Sen. Jones (22nd), Sen. Kennedy

(18th), Sen. Lucas (26th), Sen. Rhett (33rd), Sen. Sims (12th), and Sen. Summers (13th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Albers (56th) voted in opposition to the motion.

Committee Recommendation: SB 256 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 55 0571S)

NOTE: Sen. Dolezal (27th) arrived at 1:33 p.m.

SB 194 (Sen. Hufstetler, 52nd, LC 55 0473) Alcoholic Beverages and Motor Vehicles and Traffic; production of distilled spirits by a person in his or her private residence; authorize

The Chair recognized Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Hufstetler (52nd) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair recognized Sen. Albers (56th) who made a motion that **SB 194 Do Pass (LC 55 0473)**. Sen. Sims (12th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SB 194 DO PASS (LC 55 0473)

SB 142 (Sen. Jackson, 41st, LC 52 0750) Physicians; certain licensure for qualifying international medical graduates; provide

The Chair recognized Sen. Kim Jackson (41st) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Jackson (41st) presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Ginn (47th) left early at 1:59 p.m.

Testimony in favor of the bill:
Kimberly Emm with Georgia Composite Medical Board

Testimony in opposition to the bill:
None

NOTE: Sen. Brass (6th) left early at 2:05 p.m.

Committee Recommendation: SB 142 (LC 52 0750) No Action was Taken

SB 221 (Sen. Still, 48th, LC 55 0453) Massage Therapy Practice; the number of education hours applicable to licensed massage therapists; increase

The Chair recognized Sen. Shawn Still (48th) and Patty Glenn with the Federation of State Massage Therapy Board for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Still (48th) and Ms. Glenn presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair recognized Sen. Albers (56th) who made a motion that **SB 221 Do Pass (LC 55**

0453). Sen. Jones (22nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SB 221 DO PASS (LC 55 0453)

SB 239 (Sen. Walker, 20th, LC 55 0528) Funeral Directors and Establishments; funeral directors be licensed embalmers; remove the requirement

The Chair recognized Sen. Larry Walker III (20th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Walker (20th) presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Dolezal (28th) left early at 2:25 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Albers (56th) left early at 2:26 p.m.

Sen. Cowsert (46th) ceded the Chair to Sen. Summers (13th). Sen. Summers (13th) assumed the Chair.

NOTE: Sen. Cowsert (46th) left at 2:26 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Dolezal (28th) returned at 2:29 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Cowsert (46th) returned at 2:32 p.m.

Sen. Summers (13th) ceded the Chair to Sen. Cowsert (46th). Sen. Cowsert (46th) resumed the Chair.

Testimony in favor of the bill:
Scott Young with Service Corporation International
Cy Hume with A.S Turner & Sons

Testimony in opposition to the bill:
None

The Chair recognized Sen. Summers (13th) who made a motion that **SB 239 Do Pass (LC 55 0528)**. Sen. Kennedy (18th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SB 239 DO PASS (LC 55 0528)

SB 229 (Sen. Anavitarte, 31st, LC 55 0497) Alcoholic Beverages; the issuance of wholesale consumable hemp licenses to wholesale dealers of alcoholic beverages; prohibit

The Chair recognized Sen. Jason Anavitarte (31st) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Anavitarte (31st) presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Kennedy (18th) left at 2:40 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Jones (22nd) left at 2:40 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Jones (22nd) returned at 2:41 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Harbison (15th) left at 2:41 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Kennedy (18th) returned at 2:42 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Anderson (43rd) arrived at 2:43 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Dolezal (27th) left early at 2:47 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Harbison (15th) returned at 2:50 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Sims (12th) left early at 2:51 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Summers (13th) left early at 2:52 p.m.

Testimony in favor of the bill:
Angela Holland with Georgia Association of Convenience Stores
Josh Mackey with Georgia Craft Brewers

Testimony in opposition to the bill:
KC Honeyman with Wine & Spirits Wholesales of Georgia

Committee Recommendation: SB 229 (LC55 0497) No Action was Taken

Chairman Cowsert (46th) adjourned the meeting at 3:12 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

/s/
Paige McKenna, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Regulated Industries & Utilities
Tuesday, March 11, 2025

The Senate Committee on Regulated Industries & Utilities met on Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. in Room 450 of the State Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Chairman
Sen. Carden Summers (13th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. John Albers (56th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Tonya Anderson (43rd) *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Matt Brass (6th)
Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th)
Sen. Frank Ginn (47th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Steve Gooch (51st)
Sen. Harold Jones II (22nd) *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. David Lucas (26th) *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Michael "Doc" Rhett (33rd) *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Ex-Officio

NOTE: Sen. John F. Kennedy (18th), Secretary, and Sen. Ed Harbison (15th), Ex-Officio, were absent.

Chairman Cowsert (46th) called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

HB 34 (Rep. Washburn, 144th, LC 55 0467S) Professional licensing boards; continuing education tracking solution to monitor compliance of licenses with applicable continuing education requirements; establish

The Chair recognized Rep. Dale Washburn (144th) and Gabriel Sterling with the Georgia Secretary of State for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Washburn (144th) and Mr. Sterling presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Jones (22nd) arrived at 4:06 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Rhett (33rd) arrived 4:08 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Anderson (43rd) arrived at 4:13 p.m.

Testimony in favor of the bill:
Tim Davis with Georgia Nursing Association

Testimony in opposition to the bill:
None

The Chair recognized Sen. Albers (56th) who made a motion that **HB 34 Do Pass (LC 55 0467S)**. Sen. Sims (12th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Sen. Shawn Still (48th) was named the Senate sponsor.

Committee Recommendation: HB 34 DO PASS LC 55 0467S)

HB 51 (Rep. Burchett, 176th, LC 47 3374S) Georgia Environmental Finance Authority; finance and perform certain duties for projects relating to natural gas facilities; authorize

The Chair recognized Rep. James Burchett (176th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Burchett (176th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair recognized Sen. Ginn (47th) who made a motion that **HB 51 Do Pass (LC 47 3374S)**. Sen. Summers (13th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Sen. Summers (13th) was named the Senate sponsor.

Committee Recommendation: HB 51 DO PASS (LC 47 3374S)

HB 219 (Rep. Stephens, 164th, LC 57 0201) Professions and businesses; establish a professional health program to provide for monitoring and rehabilitation of impaired healthcare professionals; authorize

The Chair recognized Rep. Ron Stephens (164th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Stephens (164th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair recognized Sen. Summers (13th) who made a motion that **HB 219 Do Pass (LC 57 0201)**. Sen. Rhett (33rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Sen. Rhett (33rd) was named the Senate sponsor.

Committee Recommendation: HB 219 DO PASS (LC 57 0201)

HB 416 (Rep. Efstration, 104th, LC 44 3107S) Local government; enterprise zones; revise class of retailer from which fees may be collected

The Chair recognized Rep. Chuck Efstration (104th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Efstration (104th) presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Lucas (26th) arrived at 4:24 p.m.

Testimony in favor of the bill:
Robert Highsmith with Holland & Knight

Testimony in opposition to the bill:
None

The Chair recognized Sen. Lucas (26th) who made a motion that **HB 416 Do Pass (LC 44**

3107S). Sen. Albers (56th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Sen. Cowsert (46th) was named the Senate sponsor.

Committee Recommendation: HB 416 DO PASS (LC 44 3107S)

Chairman Cowsert (46th) adjourned the meeting at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

/s/
Paige McKenna, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Regulated Industries & Utilities
Tuesday, March 18, 2025

The Senate Committee on Regulated Industries & Utilities met on Tuesday, March 18, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. in Room 450 of the State Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Chairman
Sen. Carden Summers (13th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. John Albers (56th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Tonya Anderson (43rd) *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Matt Brass (6th)
Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th) *(Left Early)*
Sen. Frank Ginn (47th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Ed Harbison (15th), Ex-Officio *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Harold Jones II (22nd)
Sen. David Lucas (26th) *(Left Early)*
Sen. Michael "Doc" Rhett (33rd) *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Ex-Officio

NOTE: Sen. John F. Kennedy (18th), Secretary, and Sen. Steve Gooch (51st) were absent.

Chairman Cowsert (46th) called the meeting to order at 5:06 p.m.

HB 314 (Rep. LaHood, 175th, LC 46 1091S) Professions and businesses; athletic trainers; revise and update definitions

The Chair recognized Rep. John LaHood (175th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. LaHood (175th) presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Harbison (15th) arrived at 5:07 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Rhett (33rd) arrived at 5:08 p.m.

Testimony in favor of the bill:
Paul Higgs with Georgia Athletic Trainers' Association

Testimony in opposition to the bill:
Dr. Kathleen Geist with Physical Therapy Association
Aubrey Villines with Georgia Chiropractic Association
Tom Bauer with Georgia Occupational Therapy Association

NOTE: Sen. Harbison (15th) left at 5:36 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Anderson (43rd) arrived at 5:37 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Albers (56th) left at 5:38 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Albers (56th) returned at 5:42 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Harbison (15th) returned at 5:42 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Ginn (47th) left at 5:43 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Ginn (47th) returned at 5:53 p.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Brass (6th) who made a motion that **HB 314 Do Pass (LC 46 1091S)**. The motion failed for lack of a second.

The Chair recognized Sen. Summers (13th) who made a motion to **Table** the bill. Sen. Ginn (47th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 9-2.

Sen. Albers (56th), Sen. Dolezal (27th), Sen. Ginn (47th), Sen. Harbison (15th), Sen. Jones (22nd), Sen. Lucas (26th), Sen. Rhett (33rd), Sen. Sims (12th), and Sen. Summers (13th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Brass (6th) and Sen. Anderson (43rd) voted in opposition to the motion.

Committee Recommendation: HB 314 (LC 46 1091S) No Action was Taken

HB 579 (Rep. Reeves, 99th, LC 55 0580S) Professions and businesses; licensure to engage in trade; provisions

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 recognized Sen. Brass (6th) who made a motion that **HB 579 Do Pass (LC 55 0580S)**. Sen. Sims (12th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Sen. Larry Walker III (20th) was named the Senate sponsor.

Committee Recommendation: HB 579 DO PASS (LC 55 0580S)

HB 54 (Rep. Clark, 100th, LC 52 0773S) Health; advanced practice registered nurses and physician assistants to order home healthcare services; authorize

The Chair recognized Rep. David Clark (100th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Clark (100th) presented the bill to the Committee.

Testimony in favor of the bill:
Tim Davis with Georgia Nursing Association
Sheila Humberstone with Georgia Association of Physician Assistants

Testimony in opposition to the bill:
None

NOTE: Sen. Ginn (47th) left at 6:20 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Ginn (47th) returned at 6:24 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Dolezal (27th) left at 6:25 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Dolezal (27th) returned at 6:28 p.m.

The Chair stated that the bill would receive a hearing only.

Committee Recommendation: HB 54 (LC 52 0773S) No Action was Taken

HB 185 (Rep. Ehrhart, 36th, LC 52 0820S) Professions and businesses; repeal and reenact Chapter 11A, the Dietetics Practice Act

The Chair recognized Rep. Ginny Ehrhart (36th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Ehrhart (36th) presented the bill to the Committee.

Testimony in favor of the bill:
Robin Steagall, Dietitian

Testimony in opposition to the bill:
None

The Chair recognized Sen. Jones (22nd) who made a motion that **HB 185 Do Pass (LC 52 0820S)**. Sen. Brass (6th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd) was named the Senate sponsor.

Committee Recommendation: HB 185 DO PASS (LC 52 0820S)

HB 232 (Rep. Silcox, 53rd, LC 52 0701) Interstate Massage Compact Act; enact

The Chair recognized Rep. Deborah Silcox (53rd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Silcox (53rd) presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Dolezal (27th) left early at 6:41 p.m.

Testimony in favor of the bill:
Grant Minix with The Council of State Governments

Testimony in opposition to the bill:
None

NOTE: Sen. Lucas (26th) left early at 6:43 p.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Summers (13th) who made a motion to **Amend** by adopting **AM 52 0064:**

Replacing line 3 with the following:
Massage Compact" and to increase the number of education hours applicable to licensed massage therapists; to authorize the Georgia Board of Massage Therapy to administer the

Inserting between 55 and 56 the following:
Said chapter is further amended by revising the paragraph (6) of subsection (b) of Code Section 43-24A-8, relating to licensure of massage therapists, applications, and requirements, as follows:
"(6) The applicant has completed successfully a board recognized massage therapy educational program consisting of a minimum of ~~500~~ 625 hours of course and clinical work;"

Sen. Albers (56th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 9-1.

Sen. Albers (56th), Sen. Anderson (43rd), Sen. Ginn (47th), Sen. Harbison (15th), Sen. Jones (22nd), Sen. Rhett (33rd), Sen. Sims (12th), and Sen. Summers (13th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Brass (6th) voted opposition to the motion.

The Chair recognized Sen. Albers (56th) who made a motion that **HB 232 Do Pass by Substitute.** Sen. Rhett (33rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Sen. Shawn Still (48th) was named the Senate sponsor.

Committee Recommendation: HB 232 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 55 0611S)

Chairman Cowsert (46th) adjourned the meeting at 6:46 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

/s/
Paige McKenna, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Regulated Industries & Utilities
Wednesday, March 19, 2025

The Senate Committee on Regulated Industries & Utilities met on Wednesday, March 19, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. in Room 450 of the State Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Chairman
Sen. Carden Summers (13th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. John F. Kennedy (18th), Secretary
Sen. John Albers (56th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Tonya Anderson (43rd)
Sen. Frank Ginn (47th), Ex-Officio *(Left Early)*
Sen. Ed Harbison (15th), Ex-Officio *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Harold Jones II (22nd)
Sen. David Lucas (26th) *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Michael "Doc" Rhett (33rd) *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Ex-Officio

NOTE: Sen. Matt Brass (6th), Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th), and Sen. Steve Gooch (51st) were absent.

Chairman Cowsert (46th) called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

HB 148 (Rep. Carson, 46th, LC 55 0431) Accountants; education and experience requirements; revise provisions

The Chair recognized Sen. Billy Hickman (4th) and Don Cook with the Georgia Society of CPAs for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Hickman (4th) and Mr. Cook presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Harbison (15th) arrived at 9:11 a.m.

Testimony in favor of the bill:
Kathryn Fletcher with Draffin Tucker

Testimony in opposition to the bill:
None

NOTE: Sen. Lucas (26th) arrived at 9:23 a.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Ginn (47th) who made a motion that **HB 148 Do Pass (LC 55 0431)**. Sen. Harbison (15th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Sen. Billy Hickman (4th) was named the Senate sponsor.

Committee Recommendation: HB 148 DO PASS (LC 55 0431)

HB 577 (Rep. Gaines, 120th, LC 50 1211S) Georgia Nicotine Vapor Products Directory Act; enact

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

NOTE: Sen. Ginn (47th) left early at 9:30 a.m.
NOTE: Sen. Albers (56th) left at 9:30 a.m.
NOTE: Sen. Rhett (33rd) arrived at 9:31 a.m.
NOTE: Sen. Ginn (47th) returned at 9:34 a.m.
NOTE: Sen. Albers (56th) returned at 9:48 a.m.

Testimony in favor of the bill:
Angela Holland with Georgia Association of Convenience Stores

Testimony in opposition to the bill:
Dillon Gilbert with Georgia Vape Alliance
Lisa Gano with VapeRite
Laura Bracci with The American Heart Association

NOTE: Sen. Anderson (43rd) left at 9:49 a.m.
NOTE: Sen. Anderson (43rd) returned at 9:56 a.m.
NOTE: Sen. Sims (12th) left early at 10:21 a.m.
NOTE: Sen. Sims (12th) returned at 10:23 a.m.
NOTE: Sen. Harbison (15th) left at 10:23 a.m.
NOTE: Sen. Harbison (15th) returned at 10:29 a.m.

The Chair stated that the bill would receive a hearing only.

Committee Recommendation: HB 577 (LC 50 1211S) No Action was Taken

HB 449 (Rep. Rhodes, 124th, LC 55 0562S) Public utilities; subject certain companies providing water services to regulation by Public Service Commission

The Chair recognized Rep. Trey Rhodes (124th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Rhodes (124th) presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Albers (56th) left at 10:35 a.m.
NOTE: Sen. Albers (56th) returned at 10:41 a.m.

Testimony in favor of the bill:
Mike Hartman, Constituent
Jacob Fried, Constituent
Tom Bond with Georgia Public Service Commission

Testimony in opposition to the bill:
None

NOTE: Sen. Ginn (47th) left early at 10:51 a.m.

The Chair stated that the bill would receive a hearing only.

Committee Recommendation: HB 449 (LC 55 0562S) No Action was Taken

Chairman Cowsert (46th) adjourned the meeting at 11:08 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

/s/
Paige McKenna, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Regulated Industries & Utilities
Thursday, March 20, 2025

The Senate Committee on Regulated Industries & Utilities met on Thursday, March 20, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. in Room 450 of the State Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Chairman
Sen. Carden Summers (13th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Matt Brass (6th)
Sen. Frank Ginn (47th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Ed Harbison (15th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Chuck Payne (54th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Ex-Officio

NOTE: Sen. John F. Kennedy (18th), Secretary, Sen. John Albers (56th), Ex-Officio, Sen. Tonya Anderson (43rd), Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th), Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Sen. Harold Jones II (22nd), Sen. David Lucas (26th), and Sen. Michael "Doc" Rhett (33rd) were absent.

NOTE: Sen. Chuck Payne (54th) was appointed to the Senate Committee on Regulated Industries and Utilities as an Ex-Officio member, by the Committee on Assignments for the meeting held on March 20, 2025. A copy of the letter of appointment is attached.

Chairman Cowsert (46th) called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

HB 630 (Rep. Wiedower, 121st, LC 55 0581S) State Board of Registration; remove used car division and the used parts division; provisions

The Chair recognized Rep. Marcus Wiedower (121st) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Wiedower (121st) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair stated that the bill would receive a hearing only.

Committee Recommendation: HB 630 (LC 55 0581S) No Action was Taken

HB 635 (Rep. Wiedower, 121st, LC 55 0546) State Licensing Board for Residential and Commercial General Contractors; revise provisions

The Chair recognized Rep. Marcus Wiedower (121st) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Wiedower (121st) presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Harbison (15th) left at 5:30 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Brass (6th) left at 5:32 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Chuck Payne (54th), Ex-Officio, arrived at 5:33 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Brass (6th) returned at 5:34 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Harbison (15th) returned at 5:34 p.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Brass (6th) who made a motion that **HB 635 Do Pass (LC 55 0546)**. Sen. Harbison (15th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Sen. Larry Walker III (20th) was named the Senate sponsor.

Committee Recommendation: HB 635 DO PASS (LC 55 0546)

HB 54 (Rep. Clark, 100th, LC 52 0773S) Health; advanced practice registered nurses and physician assistants to order home healthcare services; authorize

The Chair recognized Rep. David Clark (100th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Clark (100th) presented the bill to the Committee.

Testimony in favor of the bill:
Sheila Humberstone with Georgia Association of Physician Assistants

Testimony in opposition to the bill:
None

The Chair recognized Sen. Summers (13th) who made a motion that **HB 54 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 52 0844S)**. Sen. Payne (54th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Sen. Brass (6th) was named the Senate sponsor.

Committee Recommendation: HB 54 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 52 0844S)

HB 187 (Rep. Washburn, 144th, LC 55 0466S) Professions and businesses; contractors; change certain provisions

The Chair recognized Rep. Dale Washburn (144th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Washburn (144th) presented the bill to the Committee.

Testimony in favor of the bill:
Lee Lemke with Specialty Contractors

Testimony in opposition to the bill:
None

The Chair recognized Sen. Summers (13th) who made a motion that **HB 187 Do Pass (LC 55 0466S)**. Sen. Ginn (47th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Sen. Shawn Still (48th) was named the Senate sponsor.

Committee Recommendation: HB 187 DO PASS (LC 55 0466S)

Chairman Cowsert (46th) adjourned the meeting at 5:56 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/
Sen. Bill Cowsert (56th), Chairman

/s/
Paige McKenna, Recording Secretary

OFFICE OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
240 STATE CAPITOL
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334

BURT JONES
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

March 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 Chuck Payne as an ex-officio member of the Senate Committee on Regulated Industries and Utilities for the committee meeting to be held on March 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 Regulated Industries & Utilities
Tuesday, March 25, 2025

The Senate Committee on Regulated Industries & Utilities met on Tuesday, March 25, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. in Room 450 of the State Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Chairman
Sen. Carden Summers (13th), Vice-Chairman *(Left Early)*
Sen. John Albers (56th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Tonya Anderson (43rd) *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Matt Brass (6th)
Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th) *(Left Early)*
Sen. Frank Ginn (47th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Ed Harbison (15th), Ex-Officio *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Harold Jones II (22nd)
Sen. David Lucas (26th) *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Michael "Doc" Rhett (33rd)
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Ex-Officio

NOTE: Sen. John F. Kennedy (18th), Secretary, and Sen. Steve Gooch (51st) were absent.

Chairman Cowsert (46th) called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m.

HB 630 (Rep. Wiedower, 121st, LC 55 0581S) State Board of Registration; remove used car division and the used parts division; provisions

The Chair recognized Rep. Marcus Wiedower (121st) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Wiedower (121st) presented the bill to the Committee.

Testimony in favor of the bill:
Gabi Deliz with Qualified Applied Behavior Analysis Credentialing Board

Testimony in opposition to the bill:
Dr. Colin Muething with Georgia Association of Behavior Analysis

NOTE: Sen. Anderson (43rd) arrived at 5:17 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Lucas (26th) arrived at 5:22 p.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Ginn (47) who made a motion to **Amend** by adopting **AM 55 0112:**

Replacing line 60 with the following:

(1) Three members shall be independent used car dealers, at least one of whom shall be an independent used car dealer that sells at least 100 used motor vehicles in the State of Georgia each calendar year and that primarily or exclusively sells motor vehicles online.

Sen. Summers (13th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 9-1.

Sen. Albers (56th), Sen. Anderson (43rd), Sen. Brass (6th), Sen. Dolezal (27th), Sen. Ginn (47th), Sen. Jones (22nd), Sen. Rhett (33rd), Sen. Sims (12th), and Sen. Summers (13th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Lucas (26th) voted opposition to the motion.

The Chair recognized Sen. Albers (56th) who made a motion to **Amend** by adopting **AM 55 0111**:

Replacing "composed of ten" on line 58 with "composed of 11" and by striking "and" at the end of line 69.

Replacing line 73 with the following:
~~(10)~~(6) One member shall be a representative of the automobile insurance industry; and
(7) One member shall be a representative of used motor vehicle dealers that sell at least 100 used motor vehicles in the State of Georgia each calendar year and that primarily or exclusively sell motor vehicles online.

NOTE: Sen. Harbison (15th) arrived at 5:36 p.m.

Sen. Summers (13th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote 8-3.

Sen. Albers (56th), Sen. Anderson (43rd), Sen. Harbison (15th), Sen. Jones (22nd), Sen. Lucas (26th), Sen. Rhett (33rd), Sen. Sims (12th), and Sen. Summers (13th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Brass (6th), Sen. Dolezal (27th), and Sen. Ginn (47th) voted in opposition to the motion.

The Chair recognized Sen. Ginn (47th) who made a motion that **HB 630 Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Dolezal (27th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Sen. Larry Walker III (20th) was named the Senate sponsor.

Committee Recommendation: HB 630 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 55 0630S)

HB 577 (Rep. Gaines, 120th, LC 50 1211S) Georgia Nicotine Vapor Products Directory Act; enact

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:
None

Testimony in opposition to the bill:
Taylor Leftwich, Attorney

NOTE: Sen. Dolezal (27th) left early at 6:05 p.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Ginn (47th) who made a motion that **HB 577 Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Albers (56th) seconded the motion. The motion failed by a vote of 4-6.

Sen. Albers (56th), Sen. Ginn (47th), Sen. Lucas (26th), and Sen. Sims (12th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Anderson (43rd), Sen. Brass (6th), Sen. Harbison (15th), Sen. Jones (22nd), Sen. Rhett (33rd), and Sen. Summers (13th) voted in opposition to the motion.

NOTE: Sen. Summers (13th) left early at 6:19 p.m.

Committee Recommendation: HB 577 (LC 50 1211S) No Action was Taken

HB 571 (Rep. Hawkins, 27th, LC 46 1183S) Professions and businesses; licensing of radiologist assistants; provide

The Chair recognized Rep. Lee Hawkins (27th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Hawkins (27th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair stated there would be no action taken due to time restrictions, but the bill would be heard in the next meeting.

Committee Recommendation: HB 571 (LC 46 1183S) No Action was Taken

Chairman Cowsert (46th) adjourned the meeting at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/
Sen. Bill Cowsert (56th), Chairman

/s/
Paige McKenna, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Regulated Industries & Utilities
Wednesday, March 26, 2025

The Senate Committee on Regulated Industries & Utilities met on Wednesday, March 26, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. in Room 450 of the State Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Chairman
Sen. Carden Summers (13th), Vice-Chairman *(Left Early)*
Sen. John F. Kennedy (18th), Secretary
Sen. Tonya Anderson (43rd)
Sen. Matt Brass (6th)
Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th)
Sen. Frank Ginn (47th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Steve Gooch (51st)
Sen. Ed Harbison (15th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Harold Jones II (22nd)
Sen. David Lucas (26th) *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Michael "Doc" Rhett (33rd) *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Ex-Officio

NOTE: Sen. John Albers (56th), Ex-Officio, was absent.

Chairman Cowsert (46th) called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

HB 571 (Rep. Hawkins, 27th, LC 46 1183S) Professions and businesses; licensing of radiologist assistants; provide

The Chair recognized Rep. Lee Hawkins (27th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Hawkins (27th) presented the bill to the Committee.

Testimony in favor of the bill:
Becky Ryles With Georgia Radiological Society
Dr. Bill Herrington with Athens Radiology Associates

Testimony in opposition to the bill:
Dr. Ali Shaikh with Houston Medical Center

NOTE: Sen. Lucas (26th) arrived at 9:30 a.m.
NOTE: Sen. Rhett (33rd) arrived at 9:32 a.m.
NOTE: Sen. Gooch (51st) left at 9:38 a.m.
NOTE: Sen. Gooch (51st) returned at 10:06 a.m.
NOTE: Sen. Ginn (47th) left at 10:07 a.m.
NOTE: Sen. Ginn (47th) returned at 10:17 a.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Summers (13th) who made a motion to **Table** the bill. Sen. Kennedy

(18th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: HB 571 (LC 46 1183S) No Action was Taken

HB 449 (Rep. Rhodes, 124th, LC 55 0562S) Public utilities; subject certain companies providing water services to regulation by Public Service Commission

The Chair recognized Rep. Trey Rhodes (124th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Rhodes (124th) presented the bill and substitute to the Committee.

Testimony in favor of the bill:
None

Testimony in opposition to the bill:
Adam Shaifer with Piedmont Water Company

NOTE: Sen. Anderson (43rd) left at 10:48 a.m.
NOTE: Sen. Anderson (43rd) returned at 10:51 a.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Ginn (47th) who made a motion that **HB 449 Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Anderson (43rd) seconded the motion.

The Chair made a motion to **Amend** by changing "potable" to "for irrigation purposes" and adding a section prohibiting water systems from prohibiting customers from maintaining wells for irrigation purposes. Sen. Ginn (47th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair called for a vote on **HB 449 Do Pass by Substitute as Amended**. The motion passed by a vote of 11-1.

Sen. Anderson (43rd), Sen. Brass (6th), Sen. Dolezal (27th), Sen. Ginn (43rd), Sen. Harbison (15th), Sen. Jones (22nd), Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Lucas (26th), Sen. Rhett (33rd), Sen. Sims (12th), and Sen. Summers (13th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Gooch (51st) voted in opposition to the motion.

Sen. Lee Anderson (24th) was named the Senate sponsor.

NOTE: Sen. Summers (13th) early at 11:04 a.m.

Committee Recommendation: HB 449 DO PASS BY SUSTITUTE (LC 55 0635S)

Chairman Cowsert (46th) adjourned the meeting at 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

/s/
Paige McKenna, Recording Secretary