Senate Resolution 3

By: Senators Gooch of the 51st, Kennedy of the 18th, Dixon of the 45th, Brass of the 28th, Dolezal of the 27th and others

ADOPTED SENATE

A RESOLUTION

Adopting the Rules of the Senate; and for other purposes.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the Rules of the Senate in effect at the adjournment of the 2022 Regular Session of the General Assembly are hereby adopted as the Rules of the Senate for the 2023-2024 biennium of the General Assembly unless and until otherwise provided by resolution of the Senate, with the following amendments:

SECTION 1.

The Rules of the Senate are amended by revising subsection (a) of Rule 1-1.1, relating to the President of the Senate, as follows:

"(a) There shall be a Lieutenant Governor, who shall be elected at the same time, for the same term, and in the same manner as the Governor. The Lieutenant Governor shall be the President of the Senate and shall have such executive duties as prescribed by the Governor and as may be prescribed by law not inconsistent with the powers of the Governor or other provisions of this Constitution. <u>The Lieutenant Governor as an officer of the General Assembly shall have such legislative duties and engage in such legislative activities as necessary to fulfill such duties delineated herein and in the Georgia Constitution and in the Official Code of Georgia Annotated.</u> The compensation and allowances of the Lieutenant Governor shall be as provided by law. (Ga. Const., art. V, sec. I, par. III.)"

SECTION 2.

Said Rules of the Senate are further amended by revising Rule 1-1.2, relating to the President Pro Tempore, by adding a new subsection as follows:

"(f) In the event the President Pro Tempore publicly announces an intention to run for an elected office other than his or her State Senate seat, files a declaration of intention to accept campaign contributions for such office, or qualifies to run for such office, the office of the President Pro Tempore shall be deemed vacant and the Secretary of the Senate shall assume the administrative duties of the office of President Pro Tempore until the next convening of the Senate, at which time the Senate shall elect from among its members a new President Pro Tempore of the Senate."

SECTION 3.

Said Rules of the Senate are further amended by revising subsection (a) of Rule 1-2.3, relating to seating in the Senate chamber, as follows:

"(a) Senators elected to the following offices shall choose their Senate seats in the order listed below:

(1) President Pro Tempore;

(2) Majority Leader;

(3) Minority Leader;

(4) All Senators who have more than 20 years of continuous service in the Senate shall select their seat in the order of seniority;

(5) Majority Whip;

(6) Minority Whip;

(7) One Administration Floor Leader;

(8) Chairman of the Committee on Rules;

(9) ~~Two~~ Four seats chosen by the Majority Whip for Deputy Whips;

(10) ~~One seat~~ Two seats chosen by the Minority Whip for Deputy Whip."

SECTION 4.

Said Rules of the Senate are further amended by revising subsection (a) of Rule 2-1.3, relating to standing committees and number of members, as follows:

"(a) The Committee on Assignments shall appoint the members of standing committees and the maximum number of Senators which may serve on that committee as follows:

Agriculture and Consumer Affairs 9
Appropriations 30
Banking and Financial Institutions 10
Children and Families 9
Economic Development and Tourism 12
Education and Youth 10
Ethics 13
Finance 11
Government Oversight 11
Health and Human Services 14
Higher Education 9
Insurance and Labor 9
Interstate Cooperation 5
Judiciary 10
Natural Resources and the Environment 11
Public Safety 8
Reapportionment and Redistricting 15
Regulated Industries and Utilities 11
Retirement 7
Rules 14
Science and Technology 5
~~Special Judiciary~~ . . . . . ~~9~~

State and Local Governmental Operations 7
State Institutions and Property 7
Transportation 10
Urban Affairs 11
Veterans, Military, and Homeland Security . . . . . 8″

SECTION 5.

Said Rules of the Senate are further amended by striking subsection (c) of Rule 2-1.10, relating to the Rules Committee, calendar, and special rules.

SECTION 6.

Said Rules of the Senate are further amended by revising subsection (a) of Rule 2-3.2, relating to ex-officio members, as follows:

″(a) In addition to the members otherwise provided for on any standing committee, the Committee on Assignments may add one or more ex-officio members to any such committee. Ex-officio members shall count as a voting member for purposes of determining whether a quorum is present at any given meeting and may vote on any matter before the committee. The limitations provided by Rules 2-1.3 and 2-3.1 shall not apply with respect to such ex-officio memberships.″

SECTION 7.

Said Rules of the Senate are further amended by adding new rules as follows:

″**9-1.17. Third Party Communications and Decorum.**

Members are not expected or required to be experts on every issue. In furtherance of the public good, members may consult with and rely on non-legislators concerning the drafting, proposal, formulation, and passage of legislation. Such communications with non-legislators are considered a routine and legitimate part of the legislative process.

9-1.18. Legislative Privilege and Decorum.

When engaged in legitimate legislative activity, a member's speech and conduct is shielded by legislative privilege. (Ga. Const. art. III, sec. IV, par. IX.) Legislative privilege is deeply rooted in the history of our nation and state and is essential to our democratic representative form of government. Each member has the responsibility to protect the sanctity and integrity of the General Assembly by prudently exercising their legislative privilege and respecting the privilege of other members.″