THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM
2023-2024 ROSTER

Sen. Brandon Beach, Chairman
District 21
3100 Brierfield Road
Alpharetta, GA 30004

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

Sen. Emanuel Jones, Secretary
District 10
P.O. Box 370244
Decatur, GA 30037

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

Sen. Clint Dixon, Ex-Officio
District 45
P.O. Box 802
Buford, GA 30515

Sen. Shelly Echols (as of 1/9/24)
District 49
P.O. Box 908441
Gainesville, GA 30501

Sen. Mike Hodges
District 3
3410 Cypress Mill Rd Box 101
Brunswick, GA 31525

Sen. Donzella James
District 35
P.O. Box 311225
Atlanta, GA 30331

Sen. Derek Mallow
District 2
P.O. Box 14034
Savannah, GA 31416

Sen. Josh McLaurin
District 14
P.O. Box 567297
Atlanta, GA 31156

Sen. Sheikh Rahman
District 5
779 Simon Way
Lawrenceville, GA 30045

Sen. Carden Summers
District 13
108 East 13th Avenue
Cordele, GA 31015

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

Sen. Sam Watson
District 11
P.O. Box 3914
Moultrie, GA 31776

SENATE COMMITTEE RULES ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM

2023-2024

1. A quorum for the Committee shall be seven (7) members.

2. The Chair shall determine bills and resolutions to be considered and the order in which such are called. The Chair also has the discretion as to which amendments to accept and as to their germaneness.

3. A bill, resolution, or other matter will be considered only after presentation by the principal author or a legislator whom he/she may designate. In the event more than one member of the Georgia General Assembly has signed a measure, the principal author shall be the one whose name appears first in the list of authors.

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

5. The Rules of the Senate shall prevail in all matters not covered by Committee meeting.

6. These Rules may be amended upon motion duly made and subsequently approved by three-fourths of the Committee, provided that written notice has been given 48 hours prior to the Committee meeting.

7. Any member(s) of the Committee who disagree(s) with the majority of the Committee shall have the privilege to file a minority report.

8. The Chair shall have the authority to refer bills and resolutions to Subcommittees for study. Such Subcommittees shall have the authority to make recommendations to the full Committee; but no measure will be returned to the full Senate, except after consideration by the full Committee.

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Economic Development and Tourism
Tuesday, January 30, 2024

The Senate Committee on Economic Development and Tourism met on Tuesday, January 30, 2024 at 8:00 a.m. in Room 450 of the State Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Brandon Beach (21st), Chairman
Sen. Billy Hickman (4th), Vice Chairman
Sen. Emanuel Jones (10th), Secretary
Sen. Clint Dixon (45th), (Ex-Officio)
Sen. Mike Hodges (3rd)
Sen. Donzella James (35th) *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Derek Mallow (2nd) *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Josh McLaurin (14th)
Sen. Sheikh Rahman (5th)
Sen. Carden Summers (13th)
Sen. Ben Watson (1st), (Ex-Officio)
Sen. Sam Watson (11th)

NOTE: Sen. Tonya Anderson (43rd) and Sen. Shelly Echols (49th) were absent.

Chairman Beach (21st) called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

NOTE: Sen. Shelly Echols (49th) was appointed to the Senate Committee on Economic Development and Tourism by the Committee on Assignments effective immediately. The Committee on Assignments held this meeting on January 9, 2024. A copy of the letter of appointment is attached on the following page.

SB 386 (Sen. Dixon, 45th, LC 36 5638) State Government; regulation and taxation of sports betting in this state; authorize and provide

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

NOTE: Sen. Mallow (2nd) arrived at 8:03 a.m.

The Chair opened the floor for comments. He recognized the following:

Testimony in favor of the Bill:
Nick Fernandez, Metro Atlanta Chamber
Stuart Wilkerson, PrizePicks

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:
Mack Parnell, Georgia Faith and Freedom Coalition
Mike Griffin, Georgia Baptist Mission Board

The Chair recognized Sen. Mallow (2nd) who made a motion that **SB 386 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 36 5693S).** Sen. Hickman (4th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 8-2.

Sen. Hickman (4th), Sen. Jones (10th), Sen. Dixon (45th), Sen. Mallow (2nd), Sen. McLaurin (14th), Sen. Rahman (5th), Sen. Summers (13th), and Sen. Watson (1st) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Watson (11th) and Sen. Hodges (3rd) voted against the motion.

Committee Recommendation: SB 386 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 36 5693S)

SB 396 (Sen. Halpern, 39th, LC 54 0270) Economic Development; Georgia State-wide Music Office; create

The Chair recognized Sen. Sonya Halpern (39th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Halpern (39th) presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. James (35th) arrived at 8:18 a.m.

The Chair opened the floor for debate.

Testimony in favor of the bill:
Randy Davidson, Georgia Entertainment
Matt Still, Georgia Grammy winning Producer and Engineer

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:
None

The Chair recognized Sen. Summers (13th) who made a motion that **SB 396 Do Pass (LC 54 0270)**. Sen. James (35th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SB 396 DO PASS (LC 54 0270)

Chairman Beach (21st) adjourned the meeting at 8:28 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

s/s
Sen. Emanuel Jones (10th), Secretary

s/s
Paige McKenna, Recording Secretary

OFFICE OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
240 STATE CAPITOL
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334

BURT JONES
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

January 26, 2024

Senator Brandon Beach, Chair
Senate Committee on Economic Development & Tourism
303-A Coverdell Legislative Office Building
Atlanta, GA 30334

Dear Chairman Beach,

I write to notify you that on January 9, 2024, the Senate Committee on Assignments appointed Senator Shelly Echols as a member of the Senate Committee on Economic Development and Tourism. Senator Echols's appointment was effective immediately. She is filling a vacancy on the Committee created by the resignation, earlier this year, of former Senator Mike Dugan. Please let me know if you need any additional information about this appointment.

Sincerely,

Brad Vaughan
Legislative Director & Counsel
Office of Lt. Governor Burt Jones

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Economic Development and Tourism
Wednesday, February 7, 2024

The Senate Committee on Economic Development and Tourism met on Wednesday, February 7, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. in Mezzanine 1 of the State Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Brandon Beach (21st), Chairman
Sen. Billy Hickman (4th), Vice Chairman
Sen. Emanuel Jones (10th), Secretary
Sen. Tonya Anderson (43rd)
Sen. Clint Dixon (45th), (Ex-Officio)
Sen. Shelly Echols (49th)
Sen. Mike Hodges (3rd)
Sen. Donzella James (35th)
Sen. Derek Mallow (2nd)
Sen. Josh McLaurin (14th)
Sen. Sheikh Rahman (5th)
Sen. Carden Summers (13th)
Sen. Ben Watson (1st), (Ex-Officio)
Sen. Sam Watson (11th)

Chairman Beach (21st) called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

SB 171 (Sen. Burns, 23rd, LC 47 2172) Development Authorities; the length of a director's hold-over period following expiration of term of office; limit

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

The Chair opened the floor for comments. He recognized the following:

Testimony in favor of the Bill:
Grant Cagle, Georgia Economic Development Association (GEDA)

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:
None

The Chair recognized Sen. Watson (11th) who made a motion that **SB 171 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 47 2655S).** Sen. Summers (13th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SB 171 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 47 2655S)

SB 430 (Sen. Dolezal, 27th, LC 49 1501) COVID-19 Pandemic Business Safety; provisions for rebuttable presumptions of risk by claimants in certain COVID-19 liability claims; revise

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

The Chair opened the floor for debate.

The Chair recognized Sen. Summers (13th) who made a motion that **SB 430 Do Pass (LC 49 1501)**. Sen. Hodges (3rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SB 430 DO PASS (LC 49 1501)

Chairman Beach (21st) adjourned the meeting at 1:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

s/s
Sen. Emanuel Jones (10th), Secretary

s/s
Paige McKenna, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Economic Development and Tourism
Tuesday, February 13, 2024

The Senate Committee on Economic Development and Tourism met on Tuesday, February 13, 2024 at 8:00 a.m. in Room 450 of the State Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Brandon Beach (21st), Chairman
Sen. Billy Hickman (4th), Vice Chairman
Sen. Mike Hodges (3rd)
Sen. Shelly Echols (49th)
Sen. Sheikh Rahman (5th)
Sen. Josh McLaurin (14th) *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Carden Summers (13th)
Sen. Ben Watson (1st), (Ex-Officio)
Sen. Sam Watson (11th)

NOTE: Sen. Tonya Anderson (43rd), Sen. Emanuel Jones (10th), Sen. Clint Dixon (45th), Sen. Donzella James (35th), and Sen. Derek Mallow (2nd) were absent.

Chairman Beach (21st) called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

SB 235 (Sen. Halpern, 39th, LC 50 0525) "HBCU Innovation and Economic Prosperity Planning Districts Act"; enact

The Chair recognized Sen. Sonya Halpern (39th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Sonya Halpern (39th) presented the bill to the Committee.

Chairman Beach (21st) opened the floor for comments. He recognized the following:

Testimony in favor of the Bill:
Helene D. Gayle, President of Spelman College
Andrew Long, AR Long Company

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:
None

The Chair recognized Sen. Hickman (4th) who made a motion that **SB 235 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 50 0695S).** Sen. Echols (49th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SB 235 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 50 0695S)

Chairman Beach (21st) adjourned the meeting at 8:34 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

s/s
Sen. Brandon Beach (21st), Chairman

s/s
Paige McKenna, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Economic Development and Tourism
Thursday, February 22, 2024

The Senate Committee on Economic Development and Tourism met on Thursday, February 22, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Brandon Beach (21st), Chairman
Sen. Billy Hickman (4th), Vice Chairman
Sen. Emanuel Jones (10th), Secretary
Sen. Tonya Anderson (43rd) *(Arrived Late and Left Early)*
Sen. Shelly Echols (49th)
Sen. Mike Hodges (3rd)
Sen. Derek Mallow (2nd)
Sen. Josh McLaurin (14th)
Sen. Sheikh Rahman (5th)
Sen. Carden Summers (13th)
Sen. Ben Watson (1st), (Ex-Officio)
Sen. Sam Watson (11th) *(Arrived Late and Left Early)*

NOTE: Sen. Clint Dixon (45th) and Sen. Donzella James (35th) were absent.

Chairman Beach (21st) called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

SB 543 (Sen. Brass, 28th, LC 36 5768) Bingo; certain provisions relating to bingo games operated by nonprofit, tax-exempt organizations; change

The Chair recognized Sen. Matt Brass (28th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Brass (28th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for comments. He recognized the following:

Testimony in favor of the Bill:
None

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:
Mike Griffin, Georgia Baptist Mission Board

NOTE: Sen. Anderson (43rd) arrived at 4:11 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Watson (11th) arrived at 4:12 p.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Hickman (4th) who made a motion that **SB 543 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 36 5794S).** Sen. Mallow (2nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 10-1.

Sen. Watson (11th), Sen. Watson (1st), Sen. Hickman (4th), Sen. Mallow (2nd), Sen. Jones (10th), Sen. Anderson (43rd), Sen. Summers (13th), Sen. McLaurin (14th), Sen. Rahman (5th), and Sen. Hodges (3rd) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Echols (49th) voted against the motion.

Committee Recommendation: SB 543 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 36 5794S)

SB 503 (Sen. Brass, 28th, LC 36 5753) Residential and General Contractors; the general contractor license as a commercial general contractor license; rename

The Chair recognized Sen. Brass (28th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Brass (28th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for debate. He recognized the following:

Testimony in favor of the Bill:
Austin Hackney, Home Builders Association of Georgia
Mark Woodall, Associated General Contractors of Georgia, Inc.

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:
None

The Chair recognized Sen. Summers (13th) who made a motion that **SB 503 Do Pass (LC 36 5753)**. Sen. Mallow (2nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SB 503 DO PASS (LC 36 5753)

SB 489 (Sen. Goodman, 8th, LC 44 2703) State Symbols; blueberry as the official state berry; designate

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 for comments.

The Chair recognized Sen. Watson (11th) who made a motion that **SB 489 Do Pass (LC 44 2703)**. Sen. Anderson (43rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SB 489 DO PASS (LC 44 2703)

SB 518 (Sen. Williams, 25th, LC 44 2614) State Symbols; state floral emblem to the Sweetbay Magnolia; change

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

The Chair recognized Sen. Summers (13th) who made a motion that **SB 518 Do Pass (LC 44 2614)**. Sen. Hickman (4th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SB 518 DO PASS (LC 44 2614)

SB 496 (Sen. Burns, 23rd, LC 44 2689) Ad Valorem Taxation of Property; extension of preferential assessment periods for certain historic properties; provide

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

NOTE: Sen. Watson (11th) left early at 4:36 p.m.

The Chair opened the floor for comments.

The Chair recognized Sen. Watson (1st) who made a motion that **SB 496 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 50 0896S)**. Sen. Hickman (4th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 8-2.

Sen. Watson (1st), Sen. Hickman (4th), Sen. Jones (10th), Sen. Summers (13th), Sen. McLaurin (14th), Sen. Rahman (5th), Sen. Hodges (3rd), and Sen. Echols (49th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Mallow (2nd) and Sen. Anderson (43rd) voted against the motion.

Committee Recommendation: SB 496 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 50 0896S)

SR 602 (Sen. Beach, 21st, LC 49 1485) General Assembly; restrict, regulate, or prohibit the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia from approving any increase in tuition; authorize -CA

Chairman Beach (21st) presented the resolution to the Committee.

The Chair recognized Sen. Anderson (43rd) who made a motion that **SR 602 Do Pass (LC 49 1485).** Sen. Rahman (5th) seconded the motion.

The Chair made a motion to **Amend** the resolution. Sen. Anderson (43rd) seconded the motion. The motion failed by a vote of 2-8.

Sen. Anderson (43rd) and Sen. Rahman (5th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Watson (1st), Sen. Hickman (4th), Sen. Jones (10th), Sen. Summers (13th), Sen. McLaurin (14th), Sen. Hodges (3rd), Sen. Echols (49th), and Sen. Mallow (2nd) voted against the motion.

Committee Recommendation: SR 602 (LC 49 1485) No Action Taken

SR 623 (Sen. Rahman, 5th, LC 44 2705) Dept. of Natural Resources, Dept. of Economic Dev., and Dept. of Community Affairs; cooperate in crafting strategies to promote outdoor recreation; encourage

The Chair recognized Sen. Rahman (5th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Rahman (5th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for comments.

The Chair recognized Sen. Echols (49th) who made a motion that **SR 623 Do Pass (LC 44 2705).** Sen. Summers (13th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SR 623 DO PASS (LC 44 2705)

SB 547 (Sen. Beach, 21st, LC 39 4272) Motor Carriers and Commercial Motor Vehicles; the reference date to federal regulations regarding the safe operation; update

Chairman Beach (21st) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for comments.

The Chair recognized Sen. Echols (49th) who made a motion that **SB 547 Do Pass (LC 39 4272).** Sen. Mallow (2nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

NOTE: Sen. Anderson (43rd) left early at 4:46 p.m.

Committee Recommendation: SB 547 DO PASS (LC 39 4272)

SR 538 (Sen. Summers, 13th, LC 55 0175) Sports Betting; Georgia General Assembly provide by law for sports betting and casino gambling in this state by July 2, 2025; authorize and require -CA

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

The Chair opened the floor for comments. He recognized the following:

Testimony in favor of the Bill:
Chairwomen Carlotta Harrell, Henry County Board of Commissioners
Jerald Mitchell, President, Columbus Chamber of Commerce
Justin Frazier, Liberty County Commissioner District 2

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:
Mike Griffin, Georgia Baptist Mission Board

The Chair recognized Sen. McLaurin (14th) who made a motion that **SR 538 Do Pass (LC 55 0175).** Sen. Rahman (5th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Beach (21st) made a motion to **Amend** the resolution. Sen. Rahman (5th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 7-2.

Sen. Hickman (4th), Sen. Jones (10th), Sen. Summers (13th), Sen. McLaurin (14th), Sen. Rahman (5th), Sen. Hodges (3rd), and Sen. Mallow (2nd) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Echols (49th) and Sen. Watson (1st) voted against the motion.

Sen. McLaurin (14th) made a motion to further **Amend** the resolution. Sen. Mallow (2nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair indicated his preference that the adopted amendments be included in a perfected Committee Substitute.

Committee Recommendation: SR 538 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 55 0260S)

Chairman Beach (21st) adjourned the meeting at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

s/s
Sen. Emanuel Jones (10th), Secretary

s/s
Paige McKenna, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Economic Development and Tourism
Monday, February 26, 2024

The Senate Committee on Economic Development and Tourism met on Monday February 26, 2024 at 8:30 a.m. in Room 450 of the Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Brandon Beach (21st), Chairman
Sen. Billy Hickman (4th), Vice Chairman
Sen. Shelly Echols (49th)
Sen. Mike Hodges (3rd)
Sen. Derek Mallow (2nd)
Sen. Carden Summers (13th)
Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th) (Ex-Officio)

NOTE: Sen. Emanuel Jones (10th), Secretary, Sen. Tonya Anderson (43rd), Sen. Donzella James (35th), Sen. Josh McLaurin (14th), Sen. Clint Dixon (45th), Sen. Sheikh Rahman (5th), Sen. Sam Watson (11th), and Sen. Ben Watson (1st) were absent.

NOTE: Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th) was appointed to the Senate Committee on Economic Development and Tourism, as an Ex-Officio member, by the Committee on Assignments for the meeting held on February 26, 2024. A copy of the letter of appointment is attached.

Chairman Beach (21st) called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m.

SB 534 (Sen. Mallow, 2nd, LC 50 0766) "Fair Business Practices Act of 1975"; failure of a marketplace innkeeper to provide a consumer with an itemized receipt detailing certain taxes and fees is an unlawful business practice; provide

The Chair recognized Sen. Mallow (2nd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Mallow (2nd) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair recognized Sen. Summers (13th) who made a motion that **SB 534 Do Pass (LC 50 0766).** Sen. Hickman (4th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SB 534 DO PASS (LC 50 0766)

Chairman Beach (21st) adjourned the meeting at 8:38 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

s/s
Sen. Brandon Beach (21st), Chairman

s/s
Paige McKenna, Recording Secretary

OFFICE OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

240 STATE CAPITOL
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334

BURT JONES
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

2/26/2024

Mr. David Cook
Secretary of the Senate
353 State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334

Secretary Cook,

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 Greg Dolezal of the 27th District as an ex-officio member of the Economic Dev + Tourism Committee for the committee meeting to be held on 2/26/2024. 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 Economic Development and Tourism
Thursday, March 7, 2024

The Senate Committee on Economic Development and Tourism met on Thursday March 7, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Brandon Beach (21st), Chairman
Sen. Billy Hickman (4th), Vice Chairman
Sen. Emanuel Jones (10th), Secretary
Sen. Tonya Anderson (43rd) *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Mike Hodges (3rd)
Sen. Donzella James (35th)
Sen. Derek Mallow (2nd)
Sen. Josh McLaurin (14th)
Sen. Sheikh Rahman (5th)
Sen. Carden Summers (13th) *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Ben Watson (1st), (Ex-Officio) *(Left Early)*

NOTE: Sen. Shelly Echols (49th), Sen. Sam Watson (11th), and Sen. Clint Dixon (45th) were absent.

Chairman Beach (21st) called the meeting to order at 3:07 p.m.

HB 1041 (Rep. Stephens, 164th, LC 44 2513) Savannah-Georgia Convention Center Authority; maximum amount of bonded indebtedness of the authority; increase

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

NOTE: Sen. Summers (13th) arrived at 3:10 p.m.

The Chair opened the floor for comments.

The Chair recognized Sen. Mallow (2nd) who made a motion that **HB 1041 Do Pass (LC 44 2513).** Sen. Watson (1st) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Sen. Watson (1st) was named the Senate sponsor.

Committee Recommendation: HB 1041 DO PASS (LC 44 2513)

HB 1410 (Rep. Efstration, 104th, LC 49 1862) State Housing Trust Fund for the Homeless Act; enact

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. Anderson arrived at 3:17 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Watson (1st) left at 3:18 p.m.

Committee Recommendation: HB 1410 (LC 49 1862) No Action Taken

Chairman Beach (21st) adjourned the meeting at 3:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

s/s
Sen. Emanuel Jones (10th), Secretary

s/s
Paige McKenna, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Economic Development and Tourism
Tuesday March 12, 2024

The Senate Committee on Economic Development and Tourism met on Tuesday March 12, 2024 at 8:00 a.m. in Room 450 of the State Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Brandon Beach (21st), Chairman
Sen. Billy Hickman (4th), Vice Chairman
Sen. Emanuel Jones (10th), Secretary
Sen. Shelly Echols (49th)
Sen. Mike Hodges (3rd)
Se. Donzella James (35th) *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Derek Mallow (2nd)
Sen. Josh McLaurin (14th)
Sen. Sheikh Rahman (5th)
Sen. Carden Summers (13th)
Sen. Ben Watson (1st), (Ex-Officio)
Sen. Sam Watson (11th)

NOTE: Sen. Tonya Anderson (43rd) and Sen. Dixon (45th) was absent.

Chairman Beach (21st) called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m.

HB 1410 (Rep. Efstration, 104th, LC 49 1862) State Housing Trust Fund for the Homeless Act; enact

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

The Chair opened the floor for comments. He recognized the following:

Testimony in favor of the Bill:
Mack Parnell, Georgia Faith and Freedom Coalition

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:
None

The Chair recognized Sen. Mallow (2nd) who made a motion that **HB 1410 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 50 0842S).** Sen. Hodges (3rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd) was named the Senate sponsor.

Committee Recommendation: HB 1410 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 50 0842S)

HB 1138 (Rep. Kendrick, 95th, LC 50 0722) Invest Georgia Fund; provide additional factor that the fund administrator shall consider in the selection of venture capital funds

The Chair recognized Rep. Dar'shun Kendrick (95th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Kendrick (95th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for comments.

The Chair recognized Sen. Jones (10th) who made a motion that **HB 1138 Do Pass (LC 50 0722)**. Sen. Mallow (2nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Sen. Jones (10th) was named the Senate sponsor.

Committee Recommendation: HB 1138 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 50 0722)

HB 1341 (Rep. Sainz, 180th, LC 46 0836) State symbols; white shrimp as official state crustacean; designate

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

The Chair recognized Sen. Hickman (4th) who made a motion that **HB 1341 Do Pass (LC 46 0836)**. Sen. Hodges (3rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Sen. Watson (1st) was named the Senate sponsor.

Committee Recommendation: HB 1341 DO PASS (LC 46 0836)

HB 1034 (Rep. Franklin, 160th, LC 55 0163) State holidays; fourth Friday in November as National Sugarcane Syrup Day; designate

The Chair recognized Rep. Lehman Franklin (160th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Franklin (160th) presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. James (35th) arrived at 8:25 a.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Watson (11th) who made a motion that **HB 1034 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 39 4364S)**. Sen. Hickman (4th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Sen. Watson (11th) was named the Senate sponsor.

Committee Recommendation: HB 1034 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 39 4364S)

HB 1048 (Rep. Carpenter, 4th, LC 46 0777S) State symbols; cornbread as official state bread; designate

The Chair recognized Rep. Kasey Carpenter (4th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Carpenter (4th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair recognized Sen. McLaurin (14th) who made a motion that **HB 1048 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 46 0884S)**. Sen. Mallow (2nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Sen. Halpern (39th) was named the Senate sponsor.

Committee Recommendation: HB 1048 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 46 0884S)

Chairman Beach (21st) adjourned the meeting at 8:31 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

s/s
Sen. Emanuel Jones (10th), Secretary

s/s
Paige McKenna, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Economic Development and Tourism
Thursday March 14, 2024

The Senate Committee on Economic Development and Tourism met on Thursday, March 14, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Brandon Beach (21st), Chairman
Sen. Billy Hickman (4th), Vice Chairman
Sen. Tonya Anderson (43rd) *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Mike Hodges (3rd)
Sen. Donzella James (35th)
Sen. Derek Mallow (2nd)
Sen. Josh McLaurin (14th)
Sen. Ben Watson (1st), (Ex-Officio)
Sen. Randy Robertson (29th) (Ex-Officio)

NOTE: Sen. Emanuel Jones (10th), Secretary, Sen. Sam Watson (11th), Sen. Shelly Echols (49th), Sen. Carden Summers (13th), Sen. Sheikh Rahman (5th), and Sen. Clint Dixon (45th) were absent.

NOTE: Sen. Randy Robertson (29th) was appointed to the Senate Committee on Economic Development and Tourism, as an Ex-Officio member, by the Committee on Assignments for the meeting held on March 14, 2024. A copy of the letter of appointment is attached.

Chairman Beach (21st) called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

SR 703 (Sen. Goodman, 8th, LC 128 0244) Federal Government; regulatory overreach impacting the chemical industry and reevaluate proposed restrictions; urge

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

The Chair opened the floor for comments. He recognized the following:

Testimony in favor of the Resolution:
Wes Robinson, American Chemistry Council (ACC)

Testimony in opposition to the Resolution:
None

The Chair recognized Sen. Hickman (4th) who made a motion that **SR 703 Do Pass (LC 128 0244).** Sen. Mallow (2nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 4-3.

Sen. Hickman (4th), Sen. Watson (1st), Sen. Robertson (29th), and Sen. Hodges (3rd) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Mallow (2nd), Sen. James (35th), and Sen. McLaurin (14th) voted against the motion.

NOTE: Sen. Anderson (43rd) arrived at 5:10 p.m.

Committee Recommendation: SR 703 DO PASS (LC 128 0244)

HB 1026 (Rep. Hagan, 156th, LC 54 0318) State government; Southeast Georgia Soap Box Derby as official soap box derby of the State of Georgia; designate

The Chair recognized Rep. Leesa Hagan (156th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Hagan (156th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for comments.

The Chair recognized Sen. Robertson (29th) who made a motion that **HB 1026 Do Pass.** Sen. Mallow (2nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 5-3.

Sen. Mallow (2nd), Sen. Hickman (4th), Sen. Robertson (29th), Sen. Watson (1st) and Sen. Hodges (3rd) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. McLaurin (14th), Sen. Anderson (43rd), and Sen. James (35th) voted against the motion.

The Chair recognized Sen. McLaurin (14th) who made a motion to **Amend** by replacing the word "Kemp" with "Governors". Sen. Mallow (2nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 5-3.

Sen. Mallow (2nd), Sen. Hickman (4th), Sen. McLaurin (14th), Sen. Anderson (43rd), and Sen. James (35th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Robertson (29th), Sen. Hodges (3rd), and Sen. Watson (1st) voted against the motion.

Sen. Robertson (29th) was named the Senate sponsor.

Committee Recommendation: HB 1026 DO PASS BY SUSTITUTE (LC 49 1902S)

SR 727 (Sen. Mallow, 2nd, LC 54 0381) Georgia's Creative Economy Senate Study Committee; create

The Chair recognized Sen. Mallow (2nd) for the purpose of presenting the resolution. Sen. Mallow (2nd) presented the resolution to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for comments. He recognized the following:

Testimony in favor of the Resolution:
Matt Campbell, Coastal Entertainment Alliance

David Sutherland, UGA Terry College of Business

Testimony in opposition to the Resolution:
None

The Chair recognized Sen. McLaurin (14th) who made a motion that **SR 727 Do Pass (LC 54 0381).** Sen. Anderson (43rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SR 727 DO PASS (LC 54 0381)

SR 747 (Sen. Burns, 23rd, LC 39 4313) Historic Rural Church Trail; local governments and regional commissions for Regions 5, 7, and 12; establishment; urge

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

The Chair recognized Sen. Watson (1st) who made a motion that **SR 747 Do Pass (LC 39 4313)**. Sen. Mallow (2nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SR 747 DO PASS (LC 39 4313)

Chairman Beach (21st) adjourned the meeting at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

s/s
Sen. Brandon Beach (21st), Chairman

s/s
Paige McKenna, Recording Secretary

OFFICE OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

240 STATE CAPITOL
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334

BURT JONES
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

March 14, 2024

Mr. David Cook
Secretary of the Senate
353 State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334

Secretary Cook,

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 Randy Robertson of the 29th District as an ex-officio member of the Economic Development + Tourism Committee for the committee meeting to be held on March 14, 2024. 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 Economic Development and Tourism
Tuesday March 19, 2024

The Senate Committee on Economic Development and Tourism met on Tuesday, March 19, 2024 at 12:00 p.m. in Room 450 of the Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Brandon Beach (21st), Chairman
Sen. Billy Hickman (4th), Vice Chairman
Sen. Tonya Anderson (43rd)
Sen. Shelly Echols (49th)
Sen. Mike Hodges (3rd)
Sen. Derek Mallow (2nd) *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Josh McLaurin (14th) *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Sheikh Rahman (5th)
Sen. Carden Summers (13th)
Sen. Ben Watson (1st), (Ex-Officio)
Sen. Sam Watson (11th)

NOTE: Sen. Emanuel Jones (10th), Sen. Donzella James (35th), and Sen. Clint Dixon (45th) were absent.

Chairman Beach (21st) called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m.

HB 625 (Rep. Mathis, 149th, LC 47 2949S) Coroners; full-time county employees; provide

The Chair recognized Rep. Danny Mathis (149th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Mathis (149th) presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. McLaurin (14th) arrived at 12:07 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Mallow (2nd) arrived at 12:18 p.m.

The Chair opened the floor for comments. He recognized the following:

Testimony in favor of the Bill:
Todd Edwards, ACCG

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:
None

The Chair recognized Sen. Hickman (4th) who made a motion that **HB 625 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 47 3073S).** Sen. Mallow (2nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 7-3.

Sen. Hickman (4th), Sen. Anderson (43rd), Sen. Mallow (2nd), Sen. McLaurin (14th), Sen. Rahman (5th), Sen. Summers (13th), and Sen. Watson (1st) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Echols (49th), Sen. Watson (11th), and Sen. Hodges (3rd) voted against the motion.

The Chair recognized Sen. Hodges (3rd) who made a motion to **Amend** the substitute. Sen. McLaurin (14th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair clarified that the underlying motion would now be **Do Pass by Substitute** to include the amendment. Sen. Hickman (4th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 8-2.

Sen. Hickman (4th), Sen. Hodges (3rd), Sen. Anderson (43rd), Sen. Mallow (2nd), Sen. McLaurin (14th), Sen. Rahman (5th), Sen. Summers (13th), and Sen. Watson (1st) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Echols (49th) and Sen. Watson (11th) voted against the motion.

Sen. Hatchett (50th) was named the Senate sponsor.

Committee Recommendation: HB 625 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 44 2841S)

SR 754 (Sen. Anderson, 43rd, LC 44 2800) Senate Cumulative Impact of Pollution on Economic Development and Growth Study Committee; create

The Chair recognized Sen. Anderson (43rd) for the purpose of presenting the resolution. Sen. Anderson (43rd) presented the resolution to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for comments. He recognized the following:

Testimony in favor of the Resolution:
Andrea Jones, GA WAND
Amy Sharma, Science for Georgia
Renee Cail, Georgia Chase

Testimony in opposition to the Resolution:
None

Committee Recommendation: SR 754 (LC 44 2800) No Action Taken

Chairman Beach (21st) adjourned the meeting at 12:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

s/s
Sen. Brandon Beach (21st), Chairman

s/s
Paige McKenna, Recording Secretary