

Senate Resolution 1

By: Senators Shafer of the 48th, Cowser of the 46th and Henson of the 41st

A RESOLUTION

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

2 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the Rules of the Senate in effect at the
3 adjournment of the 2014 Regular Session of the General Assembly are hereby adopted as the
4 Rules of the Senate for the 2015-2016 biennium of the General Assembly unless and until
5 otherwise provided by resolution of the Senate, with the following amendments:

6 **SECTION 1.**

7 The Rules of the Senate are amended by revising Rule 1-4.6 as follows:

8 **"1-4.6 Sexual Harassment**

9 (a) The Senate is committed to providing a healthy and appropriate work environment for
10 legislators, legislative employees, interns, aides, and other state employees which is free
11 from sexual harassment. Sexual harassment ~~in any manner~~ will not be tolerated.

12 (b) Senators and staff are expected to discourage sexual harassment in the workplace and
13 at events, professional meetings, seminars, or any activities that involve legislative
14 business.

15 (c) ~~'Sexual harassment' includes all conduct prohibited by Federal and state law and the~~
16 ~~following unwelcome conduct~~ means making unwelcome sexual advances, requesting
17 sexual favors, or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when:

18 ~~(i)(1) verbal abuse of a sexual nature; submission to such conduct is made explicitly or~~
19 implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment;

20 ~~(ii)(2) graphic verbal comments about a person's body; submission to or rejection of such~~
21 conduct by an individual is used as a basis for employment decisions affecting the
22 employee; or

23 ~~(iii)(3) physical touching of a sexual nature; such conduct interferes with the employee's~~
24 work performance or creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work environment.

25 ~~(iv) sexual advances and propositions;~~

26 ~~(v) sexually degrading words used to describe an individual;~~

27 ~~(vi) display in the work place of any sexually suggestive object or picture; and~~

28 ~~(vii) any threat or insinuation, either explicitly or implicitly, that a person's refusal to~~
 29 ~~submit to a sexual advance will adversely affect that person's employment, evaluation,~~
 30 ~~wages, duties, work shifts, or any other condition of employment or career~~
 31 ~~advancement.~~

32 (d) The provisions of this rule apply to Senators, Senate staff, and Senate aides, interns,
 33 and volunteers.

34 (e) Complaints may be brought ~~against~~ by Senators, Senate staff, and Senate aides, interns,
 35 and volunteers under the provisions of Rule 1-4.10; provided, however, that complaints
 36 against staff (other than officers of the Senate), aides, or interns shall be brought in
 37 accordance with the Georgia General Assembly Employee Handbook, November 2013
 38 edition. Senators, Senate staff, and Senate aides, interns, and volunteers will be subject to
 39 sanctions proportionate to the seriousness of the offense. A supervisor who does not take
 40 appropriate action when the supervisor knows or has reason to suspect that harassment is
 41 occurring is also subject to sanctions proportionate to the seriousness of the offense."

42 SECTION 2.

43 Said rules are further amended by revising Rule 1-4.7 as follows:

44 "1-4.7 Discriminatory Harassment

45 (a) The Senate is committed to providing a ~~working environment free from discriminatory~~
 46 ~~harassment and intimidation of any kind, including harassment or discrimination based on~~
 47 ~~race, color, religion, national origin, age, veteran status, disability or gender.~~
 48 ~~Discriminatory harassment includes any verbal or other conduct which disparages any~~
 49 ~~individual or group and which creates an offensive, intimidating, or hostile working~~
 50 ~~environment.~~ healthy and appropriate work environment for legislators, legislative
 51 employees, interns, aides, and other state employees which is free from discriminatory
 52 harassment. Discriminatory harassment will not be tolerated.

53 (b) ~~All forms of discriminatory harassment are prohibited, whether in the form of pictures,~~
 54 ~~cartoons, teasing, jokes, e-mail, epithets, slurs, negative stereotyping, name-calling,~~
 55 ~~offensive gestures, or threatening, intimidating or hostile acts.~~ 'Discriminatory harassment'
 56 means unwelcome conduct that is based on race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy),
 57 national origin, age (40 or older), disability, or genetic information where:

58 (1) enduring the offensive conduct becomes a condition of continued employment; or

59 (2) the conduct is severe or pervasive enough to create a work environment that a
 60 reasonable person would consider intimidating, hostile, or abusive.

61 (c) The provisions of this rule apply to Senators, Senate staff, and Senate aides, interns,
 62 and volunteers.

63 (d) Complaints may be brought ~~against~~ by Senators, Senate staff, and Senate aides, interns,
 64 and volunteers under the provisions of Rule 1-4.10; provided, however, that complaints
 65 against staff (other than officers of the Senate), aides, or interns shall be brought in
 66 accordance with the Georgia General Assembly Employee Handbook, November 2013
 67 edition. Senators, Senate staff, and Senate aides, interns, and volunteers will be subject to
 68 sanctions proportionate to the seriousness of the offense. A supervisor who does not take
 69 appropriate action when the supervisor knows or has reason to suspect that harassment is
 70 occurring is also subject to sanctions proportionate to the seriousness of the offense."

71 **SECTION 3.**

72 Said rules are further amended by revising paragraph (c) of Rule 1-4.10 as follows:

73 "(c) Any complaint brought by or before the Committee and all records and information
 74 related to such complaint shall remain confidential until the Committee has determined that
 75 reasonable grounds to believe that a violation of Part Four of Section One of these Rules
 76 or any violation of Part 6 of Article 2 of Chapter 10 of Title 45 of the O.C.G.A. occurred.
 77 If the Committee determines that reasonable cause to believe that such violation does not
 78 exist, the complaint shall be dismissed and all records and information related to such
 79 complaint shall remain confidential."

80 **SECTION 4.**

81 Said rules are further amended by revising paragraph (a) of Rule 2-1.3 as follows:

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

84 AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS - ~~79~~
 85 APPROPRIATIONS - 30
 86 BANKING AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS - 10
 87 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM - 12
 88 EDUCATION AND YOUTH - 10
 89 ETHICS - 13
 90 FINANCE - 10
 91 GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT - 11
 92 HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES - ~~13~~14
 93 HIGHER EDUCATION - 9
 94 INSURANCE AND LABOR - 9
 95 INTERSTATE COOPERATION - 5
 96 JUDICIARY - 11
 97 JUDICIARY, NON-CIVIL - 11

98	NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE ENVIRONMENT - 11
99	PUBLIC SAFETY - 8
100	REAPPORTIONMENT AND REDISTRICTING - 15
101	REGULATED INDUSTRIES AND UTILITIES - 11
102	RETIREMENT - 7
103	RULES - 14
104	SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY - 5
105	SPECIAL JUDICIARY - 9
106	STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS - 7
107	STATE INSTITUTIONS AND PROPERTY - 7
108	TRANSPORTATION - 10
109	URBAN AFFAIRS - 11
110	VETERANS, MILITARY AND HOMELAND SECURITY - 6"

111 **SECTION 5.**

112 Said rules are further amended by revising Rule 2-1.6 as follows:

113 **"2-1.6 Committee Reports**

114 (a) All reports of a committee shall be in writing, ~~and the~~ and signed by the chairman or
115 the person presiding at the meeting at which the committee took action.

116 (b) The minority of a committee, signed by any member of the committee, may make a
117 report in writing, setting forth succinctly the reasons for their dissent. The names of those
118 members of the committee who concur with the Minority Report may be included in the
119 report. Notice of a Minority Report must be given when the Majority Report is read and
120 shall be recorded in the Journal of the Senate. A Minority Report must be filed with the
121 Secretary of the Senate before the third reading and consideration of the bill or resolution
122 dissented to and shall also become a part of the official record of the Senate.

123 ~~(b)~~(c) If the report of a committee is favorable to the passage of a General bill or
124 resolution, the same shall be given a second reading without question, and any Local bill
125 or resolution shall be placed on the Local Consent Calendar."

126 **SECTION 6.**

127 Said rules are further amended by revising paragraph (d) of Rule 2-1.7 as follows:

128 "(d) The chair of each standing committee ~~or~~ and each subcommittee shall arrange to have
129 minutes kept of the meetings of the committee or subcommittee and shall see that
130 proceedings of all meetings are reduced to writing. This record shall show:

131 ~~(i)~~(1) the time and place of each meeting of the committee;₂

132 ~~(ii)~~(2) the attendance of the committee members;₂

133 (iii)(3) an accurate record of all votes taken;;
 134 (iv)(4) the number of all bills and resolutions acted upon;;
 135 (v)(5) all motions and results;;
 136 (vi)(6) any appearances by any persons other than members of the committee;;
 137 (vii)(7) the date and time the committee convened and adjourned;; and
 138 (viii)(8) ~~and~~ such additional information as the committee shall determine.
 139 Committee minutes shall be subject to correction only if authorized by a majority vote of
 140 the committee."

141 **SECTION 7.**

142 Said rules are further amended by revising Rule 2-1.9 as follows:

143 **"2-1.9 Attendance and Testimony by Sponsor Author of Bill**

144 The committee shall not vote on any bill until the author or his or her designee has been
 145 given the opportunity to appear and be heard. Each committee shall provide in writing the
 146 details for carrying out the provisions of this paragraph."

147 **SECTION 8.**

148 Said rules are further amended by adding a new Rule 2-1.13 to read as follows:

149 **"2-1.13 Committee of Conference on the General Appropriations Act and the**
 150 **Amended General Appropriations Act**

151 The Committee of Conference on the General Appropriations Act and the Amended
 152 General Appropriations Act shall be composed of the President Pro Tempore, Majority
 153 Leader, and Chairman of the Appropriations Committee."

154 **SECTION 9.**

155 Said rules are further amended by revising Rule 2-6.1 as follows:

156 **"2-6.1 Committee Testimony; Recording; Transcripts**

157 Testimony before the committee may be recorded at the discretion of the committee;
 158 however, any additional paid personnel to take testimony must be approved by the Senate
 159 Committee on ~~Senate~~ Administrative Affairs. Transcription of any recorded testimony shall
 160 be made or released only upon the written direction of the committee or the Secretary of
 161 the Senate when the Senate is not in session."

162 **SECTION 10.**

163 Said rules are further amended by revising Rule 2-7.4 as follows:

164 **"2-7.4 Reading of Bills; Order of Debate**

165 In the Committee of the Whole, bills shall be first read throughout by the Secretary of the
 166 Senate, and then again be read or debated by clauses, or sections, leaving the preamble title
 167 to be last considered, unless otherwise ordered."

168 **SECTION 11.**

169 Said rules are further amended by revising Rule 2-8.1 as follows:

170 **"2-8.1 Membership**

171 Whenever any member moves that a Committee of Conference be appointed, on
 172 disagreeing votes or other matters of the two Houses, and said motion prevails, the
 173 President shall appoint three (3) members ~~for~~ to the Committee, who voted in the majority
 174 on the position assumed by the Senate, if such vote has been had."

175 **SECTION 12.**

176 Said rules are further amended by revising paragraph (b) of Rule 2-8.3 as follows:

177 "(b) All Committee of Conference reports shall be printed and distributed to the Senators
 178 on the legislative day prior to consideration of the same during the first thirty-five (35) days
 179 of any regular session. During the thirty-sixth (36th) through the fortieth (40th) days of any
 180 regular session, such reports shall be printed and distributed to the Senators at least ~~one (1)~~
 181 ~~hour~~ two (2) hours prior to consideration of the same."

182 **SECTION 13.**

183 Said rules are further amended by revising Rule 2-8.6 as follows:

184 **"2-8.6 Final Passage**

185 (a) Under no condition, including suspension of the rules, may the Senate alter or amend
 186 the Conference Committee report, but the Senate must adopt, or refuse to adopt, the report
 187 in the form submitted.

188 (b) Any Conference Committee report must be adopted by the vote required to pass the
 189 bill, resolution, or matter under consideration."

190 **SECTION 14.**

191 Said rules are further amended by revising paragraph (a) of Rule 3-3.1 as follows:

192 "(a) Upon receiving nominations by the Governor that require Senate confirmation, the
 193 President of the Senate shall immediately refer such nominations to the Committee on
 194 Assignments without alteration. The Committee on Assignments shall consider such
 195 nominations and may refer such nominations to one or more standing Committees and shall
 196 instruct the Secretary of the Senate to notify the Senate that such nominations have been

197 received. No nominations shall be considered by the Senate unless such nominations are
 198 received by the President of the Senate prior to the twentieth (20th) legislative day.
 199 However, no nominations may be considered by the Senate until the expiration of
 200 seventy-two (72) hours after receipt thereof by the President of the Senate, or until the
 201 expiration of forty-eight (48) hours after being referred to the committee. The Secretary of
 202 the Senate shall make such nominations available for review by any Senator. The Chair of
 203 the standing Committee or Committees to which the nominations may have been assigned
 204 shall cause such nomination or nominations to be considered by the Committee within a
 205 reasonable period of time after receiving the nomination or nominations. The Chair of the
 206 standing Committee or Committees to which the nominations may have been assigned shall
 207 then report the Committee's recommendations to the Committee on Assignments which
 208 shall report its recommendations to the full Senate."

209 **SECTION 15.**

210 Said rules are further amended by revising paragraphs (b) and (c) of Rule 4-1.2 as follows:

211 "(b) By concurrent resolution, the General Assembly may adjourn any regular session to
 212 such later date as it may fix for reconvening. Separate periods of adjournment may be fixed
 213 by one or more such concurrent resolutions. (Ga. Const., art. III, sec. IV, par. I(a).)

214 (c) If an impeachment trial is pending at the end of any session, the House shall adjourn
 215 and the Senate shall remain in session until such trial is completed. (Ga. Const., art. III, sec.
 216 IV, par. I~~(a)~~; (c).)"

217 **SECTION 16.**

218 Said rules are further amended by revising Rule 6-1.2 as follows:

219 **"6-1.2 Motions; Precedence**

220 When any subject is before the Senate for consideration, or under debate, no motion shall
 221 be received except the following, to-wit:

222 1st- A motion to adjourn.

223 2nd- A motion to lay on the table.

224 3rd- A motion for the previous question.

225 4th- A motion to resolve debate.

226 5th- A motion to adjourn to a time definite.

227 5th 6th- A motion to indefinitely postpone.

228 6th 7th- A motion to postpone to a day certain.

229 7th 8th- A motion to commit.

230 8th 9th- A motion to amend.

231 9th 10th- A motion to print.

232 Said motions shall have precedence in the order named."

233 **SECTION 17.**

234 Said rules are further amended by adding a new Rule 6-9.4 to read as follows:

235 **"6-9.4 Motion to Resolve Debate**

236 (a) The motion to resolve debate shall be decided without debate and shall take precedence
 237 over all other motions except motions to adjourn, motions to lay on the table, or motions
 238 for the previous question. The motion is in order whenever any Senator can obtain the floor
 239 during debate. Upon a motion to resolve debate being made, the Secretary of the Senate
 240 shall cease accepting proposed amendments until such motion is disposed of. If the motion
 241 is sustained, no further amendment shall be in order. If the motion fails or is reconsidered,
 242 the Secretary of the Senate may accept amendments in the normal course.

243 (b) When the motion to resolve debate has been sustained by a majority of those voting,
 244 provided that the total vote constitutes a quorum, the debate shall be resolved in the
 245 following manner: the President shall recognize no more than three Senators wishing to
 246 debate the bill for no more than five (5) minutes each; then, in the event amendments that
 247 have not been addressed during the debate are pending, the author of any previously
 248 unaddressed amendment for a period of no more than two (2) minutes per amendment;
 249 then, in the event a Minority Report has been filed, the member whose name is first signed
 250 to said Minority Report for a period of not more than ten (10) minutes; then, the chair of
 251 the committee whose report of the bill or other measure is under consideration or the
 252 primary author or Senate sponsor for no more than ten (10) minutes to close the debate.

253 (c) Upon the resolution of the debate as described in this rule, the main question shall be
 254 in order and only motions to reconsider the resolution of debate, to lay on the table, or to
 255 adjourn shall be in order prior to considering the main question."

256 **SECTION 18.**

257 Said rules are further amended by revising paragraph (c) of Rule 9-1.6 as follows:

258 "(c) One intern shall be stationed in ~~the rear~~ of the Senate Chamber for the convenience
 259 of the Senators. The rotation of the interns shall be the duty of the Intern Coordinator."

260 **SECTION 19.**

261 Said rules are further amended by revising Rule 9-1.9 as follows:

262 **"9-1.9 Media**

263 (a) While the Senate is in session, only properly credentialed representatives of the media,
 264 including print, radio, and television, shall be allowed on the floor of the Senate only in the
 265 area in the rear of the Chamber designated for them.

266 (b) While the Senate is in session, ~~there shall be~~ the presiding officer may upon his or her
267 discretion permit no more than two (2) media photographers or videographers on the
268 Chamber floor at any one time. They shall not block the aisles, be seated, or impede the
269 vision of any Senator at any time or remain on the Senate floor when not taking pictures.
270 No additional lights or flash bulbs shall ever be allowed in the Chamber when the Senate
271 is in session, nor shall any tripods be allowed except in the press area in the rear of the
272 Chamber. The Senate Photographer and one additional photographer from the Senate Press
273 Office shall be allowed on the Chamber floor at all times.

274 (c) Properly credentialed representatives of the media may not enter the Chamber press
275 area until thirty (30) minutes before the beginning of the session and must leave when the
276 Chamber is secured after adjournment unless otherwise determined by the Committee on
277 Administrative Affairs.

278 (d) The President of the Senate shall issue media credentials, and the Secretary of the
279 Senate shall certify such credentials and issue identification badges as appropriate. The
280 Sergeant at Arms, with the assistance of the Director of the Senate Press Office, is
281 specifically charged with enforcing this rule. Credentials may be revoked at any time for
282 failure to observe the Rules of the Senate.

283 (e) It is the intention of this rule to allow access by the media to members of the Senate
284 while minimizing distractions and disruptions of the Senate while in session. The President
285 of the Senate may prescribe such other limitations as are deemed appropriate under the
286 circumstances."

287 **SECTION 20.**

288 Said rules are further amended by substituting corresponding Arabic numerals for lower-case
289 Roman numerals wherever the latter appear as subparagraph designations.