

NEWSLETTER

The official newsletter of Georgia's
13th Lt. Governor Burt Jones



2025 Legislative Priority: Senate Bill 1 No Boys in Girls' Sports

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On **Monday, January 13**, Lt. Governor Burt Jones announced a priority for the 2025 Legislative Session, **Senate Bill 1**. Senator Greg Dolezal (R – Cumming) sponsored Senate Bill 1, the 'Fair and Safe Athletic Opportunities Act', which would ban biological males from participating in women's sports across Georgia.

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Biological men do not belong in women's sports, period. This is common sense to everyone but the most radical liberals in Georgia. The Senate has always led the way on protecting women's sports and with Senate Bill 1, we will continue to be on the right side of this common-sense issue. I will never waver in the fight to protect our sisters and our daughters participating on equal footing in Georgia sports. I look forward to Senate Bill 1 becoming law and the protection of women's sports becoming a reality for all female athletes in Georgia.

Senate Bill 1, the 'Fair and Safe Athletic Opportunities Act,' is based on legislative findings relating to the need to protect girls' and women's athletics and the work of the Senate Special Committee on the Protection of Women's Sports, which Lt. Governor Jones created and appointed. Under SB 1, middle and high schools, along with colleges, (including participating private schools) would be required to designate interscholastic sports teams as either male, female, or co-ed, based on the participant's sex at birth.

Males would not be allowed to participate in any interscholastic competition on any team that is designated as female. Any student will be allowed to participate on a male or co-ed team. The bill also requires separate restrooms and changing areas at athletic events and establishes a grievance procedure.

By enacting Senate Bill 1, Georgia would join 26 other states that prohibit transgender student participation in sports.

For the current version of **Senate Bill 1**, please follow this link:
<https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/69274>



2025 Legislative Priority: Increasing School Safety

On **Monday, January 13**, Lt. Governor Burt Jones joined Governor Brian Kemp, Speaker Jon Burns and other elected officials to announce a legislative package enhancing K-12 education and securing Georgia classrooms.

As part of the legislative package, it was announced that Governor Kemp will prioritize allocating **\$50 million** in the Amended Fiscal Year 2025 Budget for one-time additions to school safety grants. This year, in total, \$158.9 million will be made available in school safety grants for a total of \$68,760 per school.

Lt. Governor Burt Jones issued the following support statement with a commitment to prioritize school safety enhancements this session:

“I applaud Governor Brian Kemp for prioritizing school safety. He has my full support for the proposals announced today, including the allocation of \$50 million in the amended 2025 budget. As a father of school-aged children, I believe that the safety of our students is a critical issue that requires our focus and commitment. After meeting with law enforcement, school administrators and individuals impacted by the tragic event in Barrow County, during the 2025 session, I will prioritize the final passage of “Ricky and Alyssa’s Law,” and increasing penalties for those who threaten and commit these heinous crimes. Each feature of this package will build on school safety initiatives I supported last year. These are practical initiatives to achieve something every elected official should agree on – the security and well-being of Georgia’s students and teachers.”



2025 Senate Committee Chairs

Last week, Lt. Governor Burt Jones and the Senate Committee on Assignments announced new standing committee chairs for the first session of the 158th Georgia General Assembly.

“I want to thank members of the Senate Committee on Assignments for their partnership during this important process. Committee chair and member appointments were based on each Senator’s areas of expertise and background, in addition to ensuring issues under each committee are adequately addressed based on the needs of Georgians. The Senate, with our friends in the House, had some big wins the past two years, and I look forward to building upon that going into 2025 by working together with these Chairs and all committee members.”

2025 Senate Committee Chairs

Sen. Goodman (R - 8): Agriculture & Consumer Affairs
 Sen. Tillery (R - 19): Appropriations
 Sen. Summers (R - 13): Banking & Financial Institutions
 Sen. Kirkpatrick (R - 32): Children and Families
 Sen. Beach (R - 21): Economic Development & Tourism
 Sen. Hickman (R - 4): Education and Youth
 Sen. Watson (R - 11): Ethics
 Sen. Hufstetler (R - 52): Finance
 Sen. Harbin (R - 16): Government Oversight
 Sen. Watson (R - 1): Health & Human Services
 Sen. Burns (R - 23): Higher Education
 Sen. Walker (R - 20): Insurance and Labor
 Sen. Moore (R - 53): Interstate Cooperation

Sen. Strickland (R - 42): Judiciary
 Sen. Anderson (R - 24): Natural Resources & the Environment
 Sen. Albers (R - 56): Public Safety
 Sen. Hodges (R - 3): Reapportionment and Redistricting
 Sen. Cowsert (R - 46): Regulated Industries and Utilities
 Sen. Williams (R - 25): Retirement
 Sen. Brass (R - 6): Rules
 Sen. Setzler (R - 37): Science & Technology
 Sen. Harbison (D - 15): State Institutions and Property
 Sen. Dixon (R - 45): State & Local Governmental Operations
 Sen. Dolezal (R - 27): Transportation
 Sen. James (D - 28): Urban Affairs
 Sen. Payne (R - 54): Veterans, Military, & Homeland Security

FULL COMMITTEE LISTS CAN BE FOUND HERE:
[HTTPS://WWW.LEGIS.GA.GOV/COMMITTEES/SENATE](https://www.legis.ga.gov/committees/senate)

Events Under the Gold Dome

- On **Monday, January 13**, the Georgia General Assembly convened for the first session of the 158th Georgia General Assembly. Judge Trenton Brown, the 85th judge of the Court of Appeals of Georgia, administered the Oath of Office for all Senators. 56 State Senators took the official oath and were sworn in to represent their districts for the 2025 and 2026 Legislative Sessions.



- On **Monday, January 16**, Governor Brian Kemp delivered his 2025 State of the State address with Lt. Governor Burt Jones presiding over the Joint Session. Lt. Governor Jones released the following statement in support of the Governor's message:

"I applaud Governor Kemp for delivering a strong State of the State message that provides a clear path for Georgia moving forward. He has my support on key issues including increased funding for school safety, cutting taxes, additional healthcare coverage opportunities for families and caregivers and meaningful litigation reform. I look forward to our continued partnership to ensure that Georgia remains the number one state in which to live, work and raise a family."

The full State of the State transcript and video message from Governor Kemp can be found here:

<https://gov.georgia.gov/press-releases/2025-01-16/governor-brian-p-kemps-2025-state-state-address>

