

# NEWSLETTER

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



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## 2023 Legislative Session Priorities

**At the beginning of the 2023 Legislative Session, Lt. Governor Jones announced his Legislative Priorities. 10 of these priorities were signed into law by Governor Brian Kemp.**

### **Put Children & Families First:**

- Senate Bill 131 - Aligns notice requirements for permanent guardianship
- Senate Bill 133 - Child in Need of Services (CHIN) hearings
- Senate Bill 134 - Addresses parental rights
- Senate Bill 135 - Addresses genetic testing
- Senate Bill 216 - Respite care for foster parents

### **Increase Public Safety:**

- Senate Bill 44 - "The Street Gang Terrorism and Prevention Act"
- Senate Bill 68 - Dogfighting/RICO
- Senate Bill 92 - Prosecuting Attorneys Qualifications Commission

### **Create a Stable Workforce:**

- Senate Bill 3 "Reducing Barriers to State Employment Act of 2023"
- Senate Bill 86 - Increases access to HOPE Career Grant

# 2023 Study Committee Appointments

On Wednesday, April 12, Lt. Governor Burt Jones announced legislative and citizen appointments to the Senate Study Committee on Certificate of Need (CON) Reform. **The first meeting for the study committee will be held on June 13, 2023 at 9:00am in room 450 at the State Capitol.**

The study committee was established by the passage of Senate Resolution 279 during the 2023 session. The following members will serve on the 12 member committee:

- Senator Greg Dolezal (R – Cumming) – Chairman of the Study Committee
- Senator Matt Brass (R – Newnan)
- Senator Bill Cowsert (R – Athens)
- Senator Ed Harbison (D – Columbus)
- Senator Kay Kirkpatrick (R – Marietta)
- Senator Freddie Powell Sims (D – Dawson)
- Senator Ben Watson (R – Savannah)
- Matt Hasbrouck – CEO at Memorial Meadows in Vidalia
- Mark A. Baker – CEO of Houghston Clinic
- Christine Macewen – Corporate Counsel, Legal Services at Piedmont Healthcare
- Jesse Weathington – President and CEO of Georgia Association of Health Plans
- Dr. Steven B. Wertheim – Former Co-President of Resurgens



Additional study committee appointments will be announced in May. All information can be found here on the Georgia Senate Website

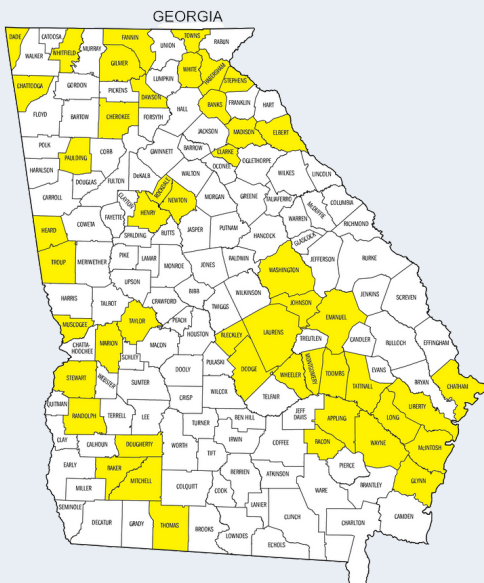
<https://www.senate.ga.gov/committees/en-US/2023StudyCommittees.aspx>

## Mobile Office Hours Overview

To support our constituent services office at the Capitol, Lt. Governor Jones announced that we will have three dedicated representatives to ensure that Georgians around the state have access to our office, resources and staff. He recognizes that constituent issues are not uniform across our counties, cities and local communities. Each community in Georgia, from the mountains to the coast, is impacted by unique issues. Our dedicated representatives will travel the region meeting with citizens, local leaders and other stakeholders. This is one resource of many we plan to implement to ensure we serve all of Georgia's citizens.

Each representative will hold weekly mobile office hours throughout their assigned regions and will respond to constituent requests and questions. Community members will be able to contact their designated representative for event and meeting attendance. Please visit this dedicated page for contact information for each representative, Georgia's map detailing each region and a constituent contact form. This page will be updated with future meetings, town halls and other events held in each region throughout the year.

<https://ltgov.georgia.gov/constituent-services/statewide-field-representatives>



Counties visit as of May 20, 2023

## Capitol Events

On Thursday, April 20, Lt. Governor Jones attended the Veterans Hall of Fame Class of 2021 & 2022 Unveiling Ceremony along with Senator Ed Harbison (D - Columbus) and Georgia Veterans Services Commissioner Patricia Ross. At the event, over 30 men and women of Georgia were inducted into the Veterans Hall of Fame. They all served in the Uniformed Services of the United States.



## Events Around the State

- Lt. Governor Jones, Chief of Staff Loree Anne Paradise and Statewide Field Representative Program Director TJ Hudson toured the Cohen Clinic in Hinesville, GA. They were joined by Senator Derek Mallow (D - Savannah) and Georgia Veterans Commissioner Ross. Lt. Governor Jones lead the charge and made it a priority for state funding to be appropriated to the clinic which provides mental health services for Georgia's Veterans and their families.
- Director of Constituent Services Denese Sampson attended the Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) 2023 State GOAL and Rick Perkins Award Banquet. Ms. Sampson served as a judge and attended the awards dinner.
- Legislative Director and Counsel Brad Vaughan attended the Association County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG) Annual Conference in Savannah, Georgia. Mr. Vaughan met with county commissioners from around the state and attended the installation of new officers and board members.
- Senator Freddie Powell Sims (D- Dawson) attended mobile offices hours with Field Representative Ben Garcia in Dougherty County.



**Cohen Clinic Tour**



**ACCG Annual Conference**



**TCSG GOAL Awards**



**Dougherty Co.**