



## SENATOR EXCUSES FOR NOT ALLOWING A VOTE ON THE SB89 ELECTION INTEGRITY BILL

SB89 was a true election integrity bill that unseals ballots and provides improved ballot chain of custody. Unsealing ballots is the most important thing the legislature can achieve for fraud prevention, honest election results and transparency. It allows counterfeit ballots to be detected and electronic votes to be verified. It was carried by Senate President Butch Miller and almost passed into law.



On Sine Die, Lt. Gov. Geoff Duncan, who presides over the Senate, ignored Miller who has floor recognition priority. Duncan obviously received instructions from Gov. Brian Kemp to block the bill. When Duncan finally recognized him, Miller called for a vote to accept House changes to his bill. Duncan ruled him out of order and Miller challenged the ruling of the chair. But some Republican Senators voted to sustain Duncan's ruling to not allow SB89 to have a final vote that would have passed it into law.

April 04, 2022 11:45 PM

SHALL THE RULING OF THE CHAIR BE SUSTAINED

YEA 29		NAY 20	
ALBERS	Y DUGAN	Y GIBBS	N PAYNE
ANAVITARTE	N GINN	N JONES, B.	Y RAHMAN
ANDERSON, L.	GOOCH	Y KENNEDY	Y RHETT
ANDERSON, T.	N GOODMAN	Y KIRKPATRICK	N ROBERTSON
AU	Y HALPERN	N LINDSEY	Y SEAY
BEACH	N HARBIN	KENNEDY	Y SIMS
BRASS	Y HARRISON	E KING-SPECK	Y STRICKLAND
BURKE	N HARPER	Y LARSON	N SUMMERS
BURNS	Y HARREL	N MCNEILL	Y TATE
BUTLER	N HATCHETT	Y MARRITT	THOMPSON
COWSERT	N HICKMAN	N MILLER	TILLERY
DAVENPORT	Y HUFSTETLER	Y MULLIS	Y TIPPINS
DIXON	Y JACKSON, K.	Y ORROCK	N WALKER
DOLEZAL	Y JACKSON, L.	Y PARENT	N WATSON

Still active Senators who voted against SB89 were Sens. Cowsert, Dugan, Hufstetler, Kirkpatrick and Strickland. Sen. Tippins and Mullis who voted against it are retiring. If the five active senators had not sustained Duncan's ruling to block SB89 from accepting House changes, unsealing ballots could become law after a one-minute vote. Majority leader Dugan could have also motioned for a vote on SB89 when he was recognized but instead, he motioned to adjourn the session and kill the bill.



Other Republican Senators who abstained from the vote were Sens. Albers, Burke, Gooch, Kennedy, Thompson and Tillery. (Sen. Brass who would have voted with Miller was not present after being excused for an emergency).

## Excuses

A lot of excuses will be offered by these Senators who prevented SB89 from becoming law with a simple vote to accept House changes. Here they are with their counter facts:

- **It was too close to midnight and we didn't have time**

It was 11:45 and a vote on SB89 to accept House changes would have taken only one minute.

- **We wanted to vote on other measures**

Once the SB89 vote was completed, other measure like HB1425 and HB1084 would have still received a vote, especially since the session went over and considered lesser motions to take bill off the table.

- **I voted for the GBI provision in SB441 instead**

A GBI investigation can only be activated by a government official or agency so it does not help the public. That was not changed in SB441. Voting for another secret agency to conduct another secret investigation into still secret ballots is not the election transparency that voters want.

- **The Democrats would have staged a filibuster**

The SB89 vote was simply a question of whether or not to accept the House changes. The Democrats only strongly opposed the GBI provision which was passed into law just prior in SB441 with no debate. They did not have serious objections to unsealing the ballots and they had little authority to stop the vote to accept House changes.

- **Geoff Duncan was right to call Miller out of order**

The provision Duncan used that conference committee reports have precedence is not listed in the Senate Rules. The Rules state that the Senate President has precedence. Once the conference committee report was completed Duncan still did not recognize Miller again as he is required to do so the Senators knew they only had one shot to pass SB89.

- **I voted for SB202 so I am for election integrity**

SB202 had a variety of loopholes that needed to be closed. SB89 would have closed two of the biggest deficiencies by unsealing the ballots and improving ballot chain of custody.