THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
2025-2026 ROSTER

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

Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick, Vice-Chairwoman
District 32
2146 Roswell Road, Suite 108895
Marietta, GA 30062

Sen. Ed Setzler, Secretary
District 37
1555 Boxwood Trace
Acworth, GA 30102

Sen. Matt Brass
District 6
P.O. Box 1313
Newnan, GA 30264

Sen. Bill Cowsert, Ex-Officio
District 46
P.O. Box 512
Athens, GA 30603

Sen. Sonya Halpern
District 39
P.O. Box 13142
Atlanta, GA 30324

Sen. Sally Harrell
District 40
P.O. Box 941365
Atlanta, GA 31141

Sen. Bo Hatchett
District 50
P.O. Box 2706
Clarkesville, GA 30523

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

Sen. Chuck Hufstetler
District 52
3 Orchard Spring Dr.
Rome, GA 30165

Sen. John F. Kennedy, Ex-Officio
District 18
321 State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334

Sen. David Lucas
District 26
110-B State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334

Sen. Randal Mangham
District 55
P.O. Box 870527
Stone Mountain, GA 30087

Sen. Nikki Merritt
District 9
1911 Grayson Highway, Suite 8367
Grayson, GA 30017

Sen. Nan Orrock
District 36
1070 Delaware Avenue SE
Atlanta, GA 30316

Sen. Brian Strickland
District 42
P.O. Box 1895
McDonough, GA 30253

Sen. Larry Walker, Ex-Officio
District 20
1110 Washington Street
Perry, GA 31069

THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
2025-2026 RULES

1. Quorum of the Committee shall be seven (7) members.

2. The Chair shall determine which bills and resolutions are to be considered and the order in which said measures are considered. At the discretion of the Chair, the order may change or be omitted.

3. The Chair shall appoint subcommittees with their appropriate subcommittee chairs.

4. The Chair shall have the authority to refer bills and resolutions to subcommittees for study. Such subcommittees in turn shall have the authority to make recommendations on such measures to the full Committee with a report.

5. The Committee shall convene, recess, put all questions, and adjourn upon the order of the Chair.

6. Any member or members of the Committee who disagree with the majority report of the committee shall be privileged to file a minority report if they so desire within Twenty-Four (24) hours of said vote.

7. A bill, resolution, or other matter will be considered only after a presentation by its principal author or a legislator whom he or the Chairman designates to do so. In the event more than one member of the General Assembly has signed a measure, the principal author shall be the one whose name appears first in the list of authors.

8. Substitutes and amendments shall be provided to the Chairman at least Twenty-Four (24) hours prior to the hearing. The Chairman reserves the right to delay action on any substitute or amendment not provided in advance.

9. Where these rules are silent on a specific issue, the Rules of the Senate, as adopted, shall govern.

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Health & Human Services
Wednesday, January 29, 2025

The Senate Committee on Health & Human Services met on Wednesday, January 29, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. in Room 450 of the State Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Ben Watson (1st), Chairman
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd), Vice-Chairwoman (*Left Early*)
Sen. Ed Setzler (37th), Secretary
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Sonya Halpern (39th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Sally Harrell (40th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th)
Sen. Mike Hodges (3rd), Ex-Officio
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd) (*Arrived Late, Left Early*)
Sen. David Lucas (26th)
Sen. Nikki Merritt (9th)
Sen. Nan Orrock (36th) (*Arrived Late*)

NOTE: Sen. Matt Brass (6th), Sen. John Kennedy (18th), Ex-Officio, Sen. Randal Mangham (55th), Sen. Brian Strickland (42nd), and Sen. Larry Walker (20th), Ex-Officio, were absent.

Chairman Watson (1st) called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

The Chair introduced new members of the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Harrell (40th) arrived at 3:04 p.m.

The Chair presented the Committee Rules. Sen. Hodges (3rd) made a motion to **Adopt** the Rules as presented. Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

NOTE: Sen. Hufstetler (52nd) arrived at 3:05 p.m.

The Chair presented talking points regarding Medicaid and then opened the floor for public comment. He recognized the following:

John King, Insurance Commissioner
Grant Thomas, DCH
Cindy Zeldin, Georgia Health Initiative

NOTE: Sen. Orrock (36th) arrived at 3:11 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Halpern (39th) arrived at 3:18 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) left early at 3:54 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Hufstetler (52nd) left early at 4:02 p.m.

Chairman Watson (1st) adjourned the meeting at 4:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/
Sen. Ed Setzler (37th), Secretary

/s/
Royce Crowe, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Health & Human Services
Monday, February 3, 2025

The Senate Committee on Health & Human Services met on Monday, February 3, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. in Room 450 of the State Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Ben Watson (1st), Chairman
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd), Vice-Chairwoman
Sen. Matt Brass (6th)
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Ex-Officio (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Sonya Halpern (39th)
Sen. Sally Harrell (40th)
Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th)
Sen. Mike Hodges (3rd), Ex-Officio
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd)
Sen. David Lucas (26th)
Sen. Randal Mangham (55th)
Sen. Nikki Merritt (9th)
Sen. Larry Walker (20th), Ex-Officio

NOTE: Sen. Ed Setzler (37th), Secretary, Sen. John Kennedy (18th), Ex-Officio, Sen. Nan Orrock (36th), and Sen. Brian Strickland (42nd) were absent.

Chairman Watson (1st) called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

SB 6 (Sen. Kirkpatrick, 32nd, LC 57 0170) Controlled Substances; determine whether a controlled substance has been adulterated; authorize the use of testing equipment

The Chair recognized Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) to present the bill. Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Cowsert (46th) arrived at 2:15 p.m.

The Chair opened the floor for public comment. He recognized the following:

Testimony in favor of the Bill:
Jeff Breedlove, Georgia Council for Recovery
Marc Hyden, R Street Institute
Andy Gish, Georgia Overdose Prevention/Nurse
Sarah Febres-Cordero, Emory University
Jeremy Sharp, Georgia Overdose Preventer
Mark Parnell, Georgia Faith and Freedom Coalition
Tony Moon, Georgia Association of Recovery Residence
Candice Whittaker, Georgia Association of Recovery Residence

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:
None

NOTE: Sen. Hatchett (50th) left at 2:25 p.m.
NOTE: Chairman Watson (1st) left at 2:26 p.m.
NOTE: Chairman Watson (1st) and Sen. Hatchett (50th) returned at 2:28 p.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) who made a motion to **Amend** line 18 by adding language clarifying drug related objects. Sen. Hatchett (50th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair recognized Sen. Brass (6th) who made a motion that **SB 6 Do Pass by Substitute. S**en. Hatchett (50th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SB 6 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 57 0718S)

NOTE: Sen. Merritt (9th) left at 2:32 p.m.

The Chair recognized Nancy Pitra, Alzheimer's Association, and MaryLea Boatwright Quinn, Division of Aging Services, to speak to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Merritt (9th) returned at 2:36 p.m.

The Chair recognized Lynn Durham, Georgia Center of Oncology Research and Education, to speak to the Committee.

Chairman Watson (1st) adjourned the meeting at 2:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/
Sen. Ben Watson (1st), Chairman

/s/
Royce Crowe, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Health & Human Services
Wednesday, February 5, 2025

The Senate Committee on Health & Human Services met on Wednesday, February 5, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. in Room 450 of the State Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Ben Watson (1st), Chairman
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd), Vice-Chairwoman
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Sonya Halpern (39th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Sally Harrell (40th)
Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th)
Sen. Mike Hodges (3rd), Ex-Officio
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd)
Sen. Nan Orrock (36th)

NOTE: Sen. Ed Setzler (37th), Secretary, Sen. Matt Brass (6th), Sen. John Kennedy (18th), Ex-Officio, Sen. David Lucas (26th), Sen. Randal Mangham (55th), Sen. Nikki Merritt (9th), Sen. Brian Strickland (42nd), and Sen. Larry Walker (20th), Ex-Officio, were absent.

Chairman Watson (1st) called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

SB 58 (Sen. Albers, 56th, LC 39 4531) "Georgia Transporting Life-Saving Organs and Personnel Act"

The Chair recognized Sen. John Albers (56th) to present the bill. Sen. Albers (56th) presented the bill to the Committee and asked that Colonel William Hitchens speak as well.

NOTE: Sen. Halpern (39th) arrived at 4:12 p.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) who made a motion that **SB 58 Do Pass (LC 39 4531).** Sen. Orrock (36th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SB 58 DO PASS (LC 39 4531)

The Chair recognized Dr. Suneel Katragadda, MD, Tardive Dyskinesia Awareness, to speak to the Committee.

Chairman Watson (1st) adjourned the meeting at 4:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/
Sen. Ben Watson (1st), Chairman

/s/
Royce Crowe, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Health & Human Services
Monday, February 10, 2025

The Senate Committee on Health & Human Services met on Monday, February 10, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. in Room 450 of the State Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Ben Watson (1st), Chairman
Sen. Ed Setzler (37th), Secretary
Sen. Matt Brass (6th)
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Sonya Halpern (39th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Sally Harrell (40th)
Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th) (*Left Early*)
Sen. Mike Hodges (3rd), Ex-Officio (*Arrived Late, Left Early*)
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd)
Sen. Randal Mangham (55th)
Sen. Nikki Merritt (9th)
Sen. Nan Orrock (36th) (*Left Early*)
Sen. Larry Walker (20th), Ex-Officio

NOTE: Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd), Vice-Chairwoman, Sen. John Kennedy (18th), Ex-Officio, Sen. David Lucas (26th), and Sen. Brian Strickland (42nd) were absent.

Chairman Watson (1st) called the meeting to order at 2:09 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Halpern (39th) arrived at 2:11 p.m.

SB 101 (Sen. Robertson, 29th, LC 60 0070) Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy; testing in the newborn screening system; require

The Chair recognized Sen. Randy Robertson (29th) to present the bill. Sen. Robertson (29th) presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen Hodges (3rd) arrived at 2:18 p.m.

The Chair opened the floor for public comment. He recognized the following:

Testimony in favor of the Bill:
Doctor Han Phar, Pediatric Neurologist
Ryan Saahan

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:
Megan Andrews, Department of Public Health
Kimberly Ross, Department of Public Health

The Chair recognized Sen. Brass (6th) who made a motion that **SB 101 Do Pass (LC 60 0070).** Sen. Setzler (37th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 10 – 2.

Sen. Brass (6th), Sen. Hatchett (50th), Sen. Hodges (3rd), Sen. Hufstetler (52nd), Sen. Halpern (39th), Sen. Mangham (55th), Sen. Merritt (9th), Sen. Orrock (36th), Sen. Setzler (37th), and Sen. Walker (20th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Cowsert (46th) and Sen. Harrell (40th) voted against the motion.

Committee Recommendation: SB 101 DO PASS (LC 60 0070)

SB 72 (Sen. Brass, 6th, LC 52 0651) "Hope for Georgia Patients Act"; enact

The Chair recognized Sen. Brass (6th) to present the bill. Sen. Brass (6th) presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Hatchett (50th) left at 2:56 p.m.

The Chair recognized Naomi Lopez, Goldwater Institute, to speak to the Committee.

The Chair recognized Sen. Cowsert (46th) who made a motion that **SB 72 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 52 0746S).** Sen. Halpern (39th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SB 72 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 52 0746S)

NOTE: Sen. Orrock (36th) left at 3:03 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Hodges (3rd) left at 3:04 p.m.

Chairman Watson (1st) adjourned the meeting at 3:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/
Sen. Ed Setzler (37th), Secretary

/s/
Royce Crowe, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Health & Human Services
Wednesday, February 12, 2025

The Senate Committee on Health & Human Services met on Wednesday, February 12, 2025 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 450 of the State Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Ben Watson (1st), Chairman
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd), Vice-Chairwoman *(Left Early)*
Sen. Ed Setzler (37th), Secretary
Sen. Matt Brass (6th)
Sen. John Kennedy (18th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Sally Harrell (40th)
Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th) *(Left Early)*
Sen. Mike Hodges (3rd), Ex-Officio
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd) *(Left Early)*
Sen. Randal Mangham (55th)
Sen. Nikki Merritt (9th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Nan Orrock (36th) (*Arrived Late*)

NOTE: Sen. Sonya Halpern (39th), Sen. David Lucas (26th), Sen. Brian Strickland (42nd), and Sen. Larry Walker (20th), Ex-Officio, were absent.

NOTE: Sen. Billy Hickman (4th) was appointed to the Senate Committee on Health & Human Services, as an Ex-Officio member, by the Committee on Assignments for the meeting held on February 12, 2025. A copy of the letter of appointment is attached.

Chairman Watson (1st) called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m.

SB 30 (Sen. Watson, 1st, LC 52 0659) Hospitals and Related Institutions; hormone therapies and puberty-blocking medications for certain purposes to minors; prohibit prescribing or administering

Chairman Watson (1st) ceded the Chair to Vice-Chairwoman Kirkpatrick (32nd), then presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Merritt (9th) arrived at 4:39 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Orrock (46th) arrived at 4:43

The Vice-Chair recognized Doctor Michelle Zeanah, Pediatrician, to speak to the Committee.

The Vice-Chair opened the floor for public comment. She recognized the following:

Testimony in favor of the Bill:
Mike Griffin, Georgia Baptist Mission Board
Doctor David McKalip, Neurosurgeon
Chelsea Thompson, Frontline Policy Group

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:
Jason Schneider, Doctor
Elizabeth Downey, Citizen
Peter Isbister, Citizen
Brooke Rappaport, Citizen

The Vice-Chair recognized Sen. Setzler (37th) who made a motion that **SB 30 Do Pass (LC 52 0659).** Sen. Brass (6th) seconded the motion.

The Vice-Chair recognized Sen. Orrock (36th) who made a motion that **SB 30 Do Not Pass (LC 52 0659).** Sen. Merritt (9th) seconded the motion. The motion failed by a vote of 4 – 9.

Sen. Harrell (40th), Sen. Mangham (55th), Sen. Merritt (9th), and Sen. Orrock (36th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Brass (6th), Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Hatchett (50th), Sen. Hickman (4th), Sen. Hodges (3rd), Sen. Hufstetler (52nd), Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Setzler (37th), and Sen. Watson (1st) voted against the motion.

Returning to the motion **SB 30 Do Pass (LC 52 0659)**, the motion passed by a vote of 9 – 4.

Sen. Brass (6th), Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Hatchett (50th), Sen. Hickman (4th), Sen. Hodges (3rd), Sen. Hufstetler (52nd), Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Setzler (37th), and Sen. Watson (1st) voted for the motion.

Sen. Harrell (40th), Sen. Mangham (55th), Sen. Merritt (9th), and Sen. Orrock (36th) voted against the motion.

Chairman Watson (1st) retook the Chair.

Committee Recommendation: SB 30 DO PASS (LC 52 0659)

SB 91 (Sen. Tillery, 19th, LC 52 0705) State Employees' Health Insurance Plan; Board of Community Health from entering into, executing, or renewing a contract with any pharmacy benefits manager that owns or has an ownership interest in any retail pharmacy; prohibit

The Chair recognized Sen. Blake Tillery (19th) to present the bill. Sen. Tillery (19th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair recognized Sen. Hufstetler (52nd) who made a motion that **SB 91 Do Pass (LC 52 0705).** Sen. Orrock (36th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SB 91 DO PASS (LC 52 0705)

NOTE: Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) and Sen. Hufstetler (52nd) left at 5:33 p.m.

SB 95 (Sen. Watson, 1st LC 57 0192) Certificate of Need Program; an exemption from certificate of need requirements concerning life plan communities; revise

Chairman Watson (1st) ceded the Chair to Secretary Setzler (37th), then presented the bill to the Committee.

The Secretary opened the floor for public comment. He recognized the following:

Testimony in favor of the Bill:
Kevin Isakson, Isakson Living
Ginny Helms, Leading Age
Cameron Honeycutt, Presbyterian Homes of Georgia
Michael Barry, Wesley Woods
Pam Clayton, Georgia Healthcare Association

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:
Deke Cateau, A. G. Rhodes

NOTE: Sen. Hatchett (50th) left at 5:40 p.m.

Committee Recommendation: SB 95 (LC 57 0192) No action taken

Secretary Setzler (37th) adjourned the meeting at 6:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/
Sen. Ed Setzler (37th), Secretary

/s/
Royce Crowe, Recording Secretary

OFFICE OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
240 STATE CAPITOL
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334

BURT JONES
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

February 12, 2025

Mr. James Tripp
Secretary of the Senate
353 State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334

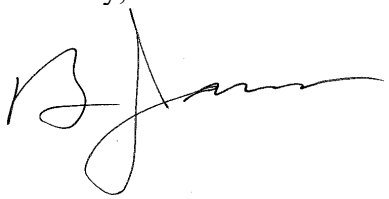
Secretary Tripp,

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 Billy Hickman of the 4th District as an ex-officio member of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee for the committee meeting to be held on February 12, 2025. 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 Health & Human Services
Wednesday, February 19, 2025

The Senate Committee on Health & Human Services met on Wednesday, February 19, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. in Room 450 of the State Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Ben Watson (1st), Chairman
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd), Vice-Chairwoman (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Ed Setzler (37th), Secretary (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Matt Brass (6th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Ex-Officio *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Ex-Officio (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Sonya Halpern (39th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Sally Harrell (40th)
Sen. Mike Hodges (3rd), Ex-Officio
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd)
Sen. David Lucas (26th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Randal Mangham (55th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Nikki Merritt (9th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Nan Orrock (36th) (*Arrived Late*)

NOTE: Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th), Sen. John Kennedy (18th), Ex-Officio, Sen. Brian Strickland (42nd), and Sen. Larry Walker (20th), Ex-Officio, were absent.

NOTE: Sen. Steve Gooch (51st) was appointed to the Senate Committee on Health & Human Services, as an Ex-Officio member, by the Committee on Assignments for the meeting held on February 19, 2025. A copy of the letter of appointment is attached.

Chairman Watson (1st) called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

SB 140 (Sen. Dolezal, 27th, LC 52 0693) Optometrists; doctors of optometry to dispense and sell pharmaceutical agents to patients under certain conditions; provide

The Chair recognized Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th) to present the bill. Sen. Dolezal (27th) presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Mangham (55th), Sen. Setzler (37th), and Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) arrived at 4:05 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Orrock (36th) and Sen. Merritt (9th) arrived at 4:06 p.m.

The Chair opened the floor for public comment. He recognized the following:

Testimony in favor of the Bill:
John Whitlow, Georgia Optometry Association
Aubrey Williams, GLA

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:
None

NOTE: Sen. Lucas (26th) arrived at 4:08 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Cowsert (46th) arrived at 4:12 p.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Orrock (36th) who made a motion that **SB 140 Do Pass (LC 52 0693).** Sen. Mangham (55th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SB 140 DO PASS (LC 52 0693)

SB 130 (Sen. Hodges, 3rd, LC 52 0632) Health; medical education funding and the service cancelable loan program; expand

The Chair recognized Sen. Hodges (3rd) to present the bill. Sen. Hodges (3rd) presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Brass (6th) arrived at 4:17 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Halpern (39th) arrived at 4:30 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Gooch (51st) arrived at 4:32 p.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) who made a motion that **SB 130 Do Pass (LC 52 0632).** Sen. Merritt (9th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SB 130 DO PASS (LC 52 0632)

Chairman Watson (1st) adjourned the meeting at 4:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/
Sen. Ed Setzler (37th), Secretary

/s/
Royce Crowe, Recording Secretary

OFFICE OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
240 STATE CAPITOL
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334

BURT JONES
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

February 19, 2025

Mr. James Tripp
Secretary of the Senate
353 State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334

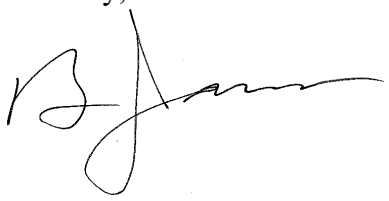
Secretary Tripp,

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 Steve Gooch of the 51st District as an ex-officio member of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee for the committee meeting to be held on February 19, 2025. 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 Health & Human Services
Monday, February 24, 2025

The Senate Committee on Health & Human Services met on Monday, February 24, 2025 at 2:30 p.m. in Room 450 of the State Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Ben Watson (1st), Chairman
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd), Vice-Chairwoman (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Ed Setzler (37th), Secretary (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Matt Brass (6th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Ex-Officio (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Sonya Halpern (39th)
Sen. Sally Harrell (40th)
Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th)
Sen. Mike Hodges (3rd), Ex-Officio
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd)
Sen. David Lucas (26th)
Sen. Randal Mangham (55th)
Sen. Nikki Merritt (9th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Nan Orrock (36th)

NOTE: Sen. John Kennedy (18th), Ex-Officio, Sen. Brian Strickland (42nd), and Sen. Larry Walker (20th), Ex-Officio, were absent.

Chairman Watson (1st) called the meeting to order at 2:37 p.m.

SB 195 (Sen. Hufstetler, 52nd, LC 56 0290) Pharmacies; pharmacists are authorized to dispense preexposure prophylaxis and postexposure prophylaxis under certain conditions; provide

The Chair recognized Sen. Hufstetler (52nd) to present the bill. Sen. Hufstetler (52nd) presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Brass (6th) and Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) arrived at 2:38 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Merritt (9th) arrived at 2:39 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Cowsert (46th) arrived at 2:40 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Setzler (37th) arrived at 2:46 p.m.

The Chair opened the floor for public comment. He recognized the following:

Testimony in favor of the Bill:
Cindy Shepherd, Georgia Pharmacy Association
Cathalene Teahan, Georgia AIDS Coalition

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:
None

The Chair recognized Sen. Mangham (55th) who made a motion that **SB 195 Do Pass (LC 56 0290).** Sen. Brass (6th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SB 195 DO PASS (LC 56 0290)

Chairman Watson (1st) adjourned the meeting at 2:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/
Sen. Ben Watson (1st), Chairman

/s/
Royce Crowe, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Health & Human Services
Wednesday, February 26, 2025

The Senate Committee on Health & Human Services met on Wednesday, February 26, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. in Room 450 of the State Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Ben Watson (1st), Chairman
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd), Vice-Chairwoman
Sen. Ed Setzler (37th), Secretary
Sen. Matt Brass (6th)
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Sonya Halpern (39th)
Sen. Sally Harrell (40th)
Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th)
Sen. Mike Hodges (3rd), Ex-Officio
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd)
Sen. David Lucas (26th)
Sen. Randal Mangham (55th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Nikki Merritt (9th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Nan Orrock (36th) (*Arrived Late*)

NOTE: Sen. John Kennedy (18th), Ex-Officio, Sen. Brian Strickland (42nd), and Sen. Larry Walker (20th), Ex-Officio, were absent.

Chairman Watson (1st) called the meeting to order at 5:37 p.m.

SB 233 (Sen. Brass, 6th, LC 33 9787) Behavioral Health Reform and Innovation Commission; revise the subcommittees

The Chair recognized Sen. Brass (6th) to present the bill. Sen. Brass (6th) presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Orrock (36th) and Sen. Merritt (9th) arrived at 5:38 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Mangham (55th) arrived at 5:40 p.m.

The Chair recognized Julianna McConner, SPADD, who spoke in favor of the bill.

The Chair recognized Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) who made a motion that **SB 233 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 33 9804S).** Sen. Harrell (40th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SB 233 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 33 9804S)

SB 220 (Sen. Brass, 6th, LC 33 9778) "Putting Georgia's Patients First Act"; enact

The Chair recognized Sen. Brass (6th) to present the bill. Sen. Brass (6th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for public comment. He recognized the following:

Testimony in favor of the Bill:
Yolanda Bennett, Georgia Medical Cannabis
Natalie Beavers, Angels of Epilepsy
Mary Adams, Inhole Plant Wellness
Allan Hord, MD, Alliance Spine
Ginny Helms, Leading Age Georgia
Jansen Head, Georgia Access for Medical Cannabis Commission

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:
Michael Mumper, Georgians for Responsible Marijuana Policy

The Chair recognized Sen. Merritt (9th) who made a motion that **SB 220 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 33 9799S).** Sen. Strickland (42nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 8 – 3.

Sen. Brass (6th), Sen. Halpern (39th), Sen. Harrell (40th), Sen. Hodges (3rd), Sen. Mangham (55th), Sen. Merritt (9th), Sen. Orrock (36th), and Sen. Strickland (42nd) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Hufstetler (52nd), and Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) voted in opposition of the motion.

Committee Recommendation: SB 220 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 33 9799S)

Chairman Watson (1st) adjourned the meeting at 6:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/
Sen. Ed Setzler (37th), Secretary

/s/
Royce Crowe, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Health & Human Services
Monday, March 10, 2025

The Senate Committee on Health & Human Services met on Monday, March 10, 2025 at 2:30 p.m. in Room 450 of the State Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Ben Watson (1st), Chairman
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd), Vice-Chairwoman (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Matt Brass (6th)
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Sonya Halpern (39th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Sally Harrell (40th)
Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd)
Sen. Randal Mangham (55th)
Sen. Nikki Merritt (9th)
Sen. Nan Orrock (36th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Brian Strickland (42nd)

NOTE: Sen. Ed Setzler (37th), Secretary, Sen. Mike Hodges (3rd), Ex-Officio, Sen. John Kennedy (18th), Ex-Officio, Sen. David Lucas (26th), and Sen. Larry Walker (20th), Ex-Officio, were absent.

Chairman Watson (1st) called the meeting to order at 2:34 p.m.

HB 473 (Rep. Stephens, 164th, LC 48 1480) Controlled Substances; Schedule I; provide certain provisions

The Chair recognized Rep. Ron Stephens (164th) to present the bill. Rep. Stephens (164th) presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Orrock (36th) arrived at 2:36 p.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Hufstetler (52nd) who made a motion that **HB 473 Do Pass (LC 48 1480).** Sen. Harrell (40th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: HB 473 DO PASS (LC 48 1480)

NOTE: Sen. Halpern (39th) arrived at 2:39 p.m.

HB 89 (Rep. Cooper, 45th, LC 57 0207S) Public Health, Department of; require healthcare providers, facilities, and pharmacies to provide the Maternal Mortality Review Committee with psychiatric or other clinical records

The Chair recognized Rep. Sharon Cooper (45th) to present the bill. Rep. Cooper (45th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair recognized Megan Andrews, Department of Public Health, who spoke in favor of the bill.

The Chair recognized Sen. Mangham (55th) who made a motion that **HB 89 Do Pass (LC 57 0207S).** Sen. Brass (6th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: HB 89 DO PASS (LC 57 0207S)

NOTE: Sen. Hatchett (50th) and Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) arrived at 2:50 p.m.

HB 352 (Rep. Seabaugh, 34th, LC 57 0237S) Georgia Gestational Diabetes Management Act; enact

The Chair recognized Rep. Devan Seabaugh (34th) to present the bill. Rep. Seabaugh (34th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair recognized Brandy Sullivan, Department of Public Health, who spoke in favor of the bill.

The Chair recognized Sen. Orrock (36th) who made a motion that **HB 352 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 52 0828S).** Sen. Hufstetler (52nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: HB 352 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 52 0828S)

Chairman Watson (1st) adjourned the meeting at 2:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/
Sen. Ben Watson (1st), Chairman

/s/
Royce Crowe, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Health & Human Services
Wednesday, March 12, 2025

The Senate Committee on Health & Human Services met on Wednesday, March 12, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. in Room 450 of the State Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Ben Watson (1st), Chairman
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd), Vice-Chairwoman
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Sonya Halpern (39th)
Sen. Sally Harrell (40th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd)
Sen. Randal Mangham (55th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Nikki Merritt (9th)
Sen. Nan Orrock (36th)
Sen. Brian Strickland (42nd)
Sen. Larry Walker (20th), Ex-Officio

NOTE: Sen. Ed Setzler (37th), Secretary, Sen. Matt Brass (6th), Sen. Mike Hodges (3rd), Ex-Officio, Sen. John Kennedy (18th), Ex-Officio, and Sen. David Lucas (26th) were absent.

Chairman Watson (1st) called the meeting to order at 4:09 p.m.

HB 645 (Rep. LaHood, 175th, LC 46 1108) Health; COVID-19 testing of staff members in long term-care facilities; repeal certain provisions

The Chair recognized Rep. John LaHood (175th) to present the bill. Rep. LaHood (175th) presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Mangham (55th) and Sen. Hatchett (50th) arrived at 4:12 p.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) who made a motion that **HB 645 Do Pass (LC 46 1108).** Sen. Hufstetler (52nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: HB 645 DO PASS (LC 46 1108)

HB 329 (Rep. Hilton, 48th, LC 46 1050) Professional and businesses; authorize certified nurse practitioners and physician assistants to perform artificial insemination

The Chair recognized Rep. Scott Hilton (48th) to present the bill. Rep. Hilton (48th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair recognized Sen. Orrock (36th) who made a motion that **HB 329 Do Pass (LC 46 1050).** Sen. Halpern (39th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: HB 329 DO PASS (LC 46 1050)

HB 506 (Rep. Hilton, 48th, LC 57 0195) Social services; Medicaid coverage for tobacco cessation treatments; provide

The Chair recognized Rep. Hilton (48th) to present the bill. Rep. Hilton (48th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair recognized Brandy Sullivan, Department of Community Health, who spoke in favor of the bill.

The Chair recognized Sen. Merritt (9th) who made a motion that **HB 506 Do Pass (LC 57 0195)**. Sen. Mangham (55th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: HB 506 DO PASS (LC 57 0195)

HB 584 (Rep. Petrea, 166th, LC 57 0238) Health; reassign licensing and oversight of certain treatment and programs from Department of Community Health to Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities

The Chair recognized Rep. Jesse Petrea (166th) to present the bill. Rep. Petrea (166th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair recognized Melanie Simmons, Department of Community Health, who spoke in favor of the bill.

NOTE: Sen. Harrell (40th) arrived at 4:29 p.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Walker (20th) who made a motion that **HB 584 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 57 0270S).** Sen. Hatchett (50th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: HB 584 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 57 0270S)

Chairman Watson (1st) adjourned the meeting at 4:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/
Sen. Ben Watson (1st), Chairman

/s/
Royce Crowe, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Health & Human Services
Wednesday, March 19, 2025

The Senate Committee on Health & Human Services met on Wednesday, March 19, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. in Room 450 of the State Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Ben Watson (1st), Chairman
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd), Vice-Chairwoman
Sen. Matt Brass (6th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Sonya Halpern (39th)
Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th)
Sen. Mike Hodges (3rd), Ex-Officio (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd)
Sen. Randal Mangham (55th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Nikki Merritt (9th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Nan Orrock (36th)
Sen. Brian Strickland (42nd)

NOTE: Sen. Ed Setzler (37th), Secretary, Sen. Sally Harrell (40th), Sen. John Kennedy (18th), Ex-Officio, Sen. David Lucas (26th), and Sen. Larry Walker (20th), Ex-Officio, were absent.

Chairman Watson (1st) called the meeting to order at 4:07 p.m.

HB 471 (Rep. Cheokas, 151st, LC 57 0251S) Health; licensed general hospitals and birthing centers make available a water safety education video to parents or guardians of newborn infants; require

The Chair recognized Rep. Mike Cheokas (151st) to present the bill. Rep. Cheokas (151st) presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Mangham (55th) and Sen. Hodges (3rd) arrived at 4:10 p.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Shawn Still (48th), the Senate sponsor, to speak to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Matt Brass (6th) arrived at 4:13 p.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Orrock (36th) who made a motion that **HB 471 Do Pass (LC 57 0251S).** Sen. Mangham (55th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: HB 471 DO PASS (LC 57 0251S)

HB 154 (Rep. Richardson, 125th, LC 46 1133S) Emergency medical services; designate ambulance services as an essential service

The Chair recognized Rep. Gary Richardson (125th) to present the bill. Rep. Richardson (125th) presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Merritt (9th) arrived at 4:18 p.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) who made a motion that **HB 154 Do Pass (LC 46 1133S).** Sen. Strickland (42nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: HB 154 DO PASS (LC 46 1133S)

HB 567 (Rep. Dempsey, 13th, LC 46 1179S) Professions and businesses; authorize and regulate teledentistry by licensed dentists

The Chair recognized Rep. Katie Dempsey (13th) to present the bill. Rep. Dempsey (13th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair recognized Lewis Petree and Janelle Adams, Georgia Dental Association, who spoke in favor of the bill.

The Chair recognized Sen. Brass (6th) who made a motion that **HB 567 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 46 1218S).** Sen. Hatchett (50th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: HB 567 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 46 1218S)

HB 291 (Rep. Taylor, 173rd, LC 57 0257S) Health; certification of community health workers; provide

The Chair recognized Rep. Darlene Taylor (173rd) to present the bill. Rep. Taylor (173rd) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair recognized Sen. Halpern (39th) who made a motion that **HB 291 Do Pass (LC 57 0257S).** Sen Strickland (42nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: HB 291 DO PASS (LC 57 0257S)

HB 428 (Rep. Franklin, 160th, LC 46 1090) Health; codify right to in vitro fertilization for individuals

The Chair recognized Rep. Lehman Franklin (160th) to present the bill. Rep. Franklin (160th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for public comment. He recognized the following:

Testimony in favor of the Bill:
Lynn Goldman, Georgia Fertility Network
Andrea Kerr, Citizen
Doctor Jennifer Kawwass, Georgia Fertility Network
Emily Lobelo, Citizen
Andrea and Zach French, Georgia Fertility Network

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:

Suzanne Guy, Citizen
Rachel Guy, Citizen

The Chair recognized Sen. Brass (6th) who made a motion that **HB 428 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 33 9818S).** Sen. Hufstetler (52nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: HB 428 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 33 9818S)

Chairman Watson (1st) adjourned the meeting at 4:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/
Sen. Ben Watson (1st), Chairman

/s/
Royce Crowe, Recording Secretary