THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON INSURANCE AND LABOR
2025-2026 ROSTER

Sen. Larry Walker, III, Chairman
District 20
1110 Washington Street
Perry, GA 31069

Sen. Marty Harbin, Vice-Chairman
District 16
215 Greencastle Road
Tyrone, GA 30290

Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick, Secretary
District 32
2146 Roswell Road, Suite 108895
Marietta, GA 30062

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

Sen. Steve Gooch, Ex-Officio
District 51
P.O. Box 600
Dahlonega, GA 30533

Sen. Ed Harbison
District 15
P.O. Box 1292
Columbus, GA 31902

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

Sen. David Lucas
District 36
110-B State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334

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

Sen. Randy Robertson
District 29
P.O. Box 62
Cataula, GA 31804

Sen. Shawn Still, Ex-Officio
District 48
2850 Simpson Circle
Norcross, GA 30071

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Insurance and Labor
Wednesday, January 29, 2025

The Senate Committee on Insurance and Labor met on Wednesday, January 29, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. in Mezzanine 1 of the State Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Larry Walker (20th), Chairman
Sen. Marty Harbin (16th), Vice-Chairman *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd), Secretary
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th)
Sen. Ed Harbison (15th)
Sen. Mike Hodges (3rd)
Sen. David Lucas (26th) *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Nikki Merritt (9th) *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Randy Robertson (29th)
Sen. Shawn Still (48th), Ex-Officio *(Arrived Late)*

NOTE: Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Ex-Officio, was absent.

Chairman Walker (20th) called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Harbin (16th) arrived at 2:02 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Still (48th) arrived at 2:03 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Merritt (9th) arrived at 2:05 p.m.

Sen. Harbison (15th) made a motion to **Adopt** the Rules of the Senate Committee on Insurance and Labor. Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. A copy of the adopted Rules is attached to the end of these minutes.

NOTE: Sen. Lucas (26th) arrived at 2:15 p.m.

SB 5 (Sen. Kirkpatrick, 32nd, LC 52 0590) Private Review Agents; health insurers to implement and maintain a program that allows for the selective application of reductions in prior authorization

The Chair recognized Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) presented the bill to the committee.

The Chair recognized Sen. Robertson (29th) who made the motion that **SB 5 Do Pass (LC 52 0590)**. Sen. Harbison (15th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SB 5 DO PASS (LC 52 0590)

Chairman Walker (20th) adjourned the meeting at 2:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

s/s
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd), Secretary

s/s
Orla Fennell, Recording Secretary

THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON INSURANCE AND LABOR
20256-2026 COMMITTEE RULES

1. These Committee Rules and Operation shall be consistent with the Rules of the Senate and in the event of any conflict, the Rules of the Senate shall be observed.
2. Quorum of the Committee shall be five (5) members.
3. The Chairman shall determine which bills, and which resolutions are to be considered and the order in which said measures are considered.
4. The Chairman 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 at such time as shall be designated by the Chairman. Prior to Subcommittee action, the Chairman may recall any referred matter at his discretion.
5. The Committee shall convene, recess, and adjourn upon the order of the Chairman. In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice-President, Secretary, or a Committee member designated by the Chairman shall preside, respectively.
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 in writing in accordance with the Rules of the Senate.
7. These rules may be amended upon a motion duly made and subsequently approved by a quorum of the Committee in a meeting called by the Chairman.
8. A bill, resolution, or other matter will be considered only after presentation by its principal author or a legislator whom the author designates to do so.
9. The Chairman may delay action on substitutes and amendments not provided to the Chairman at least 24 hours prior to the hearing.
10. When a bill or resolution is placed on the committee agenda, the principal sponsor shall be notified of the time and place of the meeting.
11. During committee meetings, committee members, staff members, and all persons in the audience shall turn off or place in silent mode all cell phones, pages, and other similar devices.
12. The Chairman shall manage the debate, deliberations, evidence, presentations, and testimony during the course of meetings to best serve the interests of the Committee and the Senate on behalf of the citizens of Georgia.

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Insurance and Labor
Tuesday, February 4, 2025

The Senate Committee on Insurance and Labor met on Tuesday, February 4, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. in Mezzanine 1 of the State Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Larry Walker (20th), Chairman
Sen. Marty Harbin (16th), Vice-Chairman *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd), Secretary *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th) *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Ed Harbison (15th)
Sen. Mike Hodges (3rd)
Sen. David Lucas (26th) *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Nikki Merritt (9th)
Sen. Randy Robertson (29th)
Sen. Shawn Still (48th), Ex-Officio

NOTE: Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Ex-Officio, was absent.

Chairman Walker (20th) called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) arrived at 3:01 p.m.

SB 35 (Sen. Walker, 20th, LC 46 0947) Property Insurance Policies; notice required to be given a policyholder before the nonrenewal of his or her homeowners' insurance policy; increase the number of days

NOTE: Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) assumed the role of Chair, at 3:02 p.m., for the purpose of Sen. Walker to present a bill to the Committee.

The Chair recognized Sen. Walker (20th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Walker (20th) presented the bill to the committee.

NOTE: Sen. Harbin (16th) arrived at 3:04 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Cowsert (46th) arrived at 3:05 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Lucas (26th) arrived at 3:13 p.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Robertson (29th) who made the motion that **SB 35 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 46 1059S)**. Sen. Harbin (16th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SB 35 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 46 1059S)

NOTE: Sen. Walker (20th) resumed the role of Chair at 3:17 p.m.

SB 39 (Sen. Tillery 19th, LC 52 0647) Employees' Insurance Benefits Plans; expenses for gender-affirming care under the state health benefit plan or with any state funds; prohibit coverage

The Chair recognized Sen. Blake Tillery (19th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Tillery (19th) presented the bill to the committee.

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

Testimony in favor of the bill:
Chelsea Thompson, Frontline Policy

Testimony in opposition to the bill:
Amanda Kay Seals, Advocates for Trans Equality
Andrew Benecchi, Self
Dr. Cassie Ackerley, Self
Jeff Graham, PFLAG
Bentley Hudgins, Human Rights Campaign
Carrie Scott, Self
Khare Hayden, Self
Christine Loflin, Self
Gracie Gainey, Community Estrella

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Robertson (29th) who made the motion to **Amend SB 39** Section IV, lines 117 and 118 of the bill to read as "This Act shall become effective on January 1, 2026, and shall apply to all State Health Benefit Plans issued, delivered, issued for delivery, or renewed in this state on or after such date." Sen. Harbin (16th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 6-3.

Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Harbin (16th), Sen. Hodges (3rd), Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd), Sen. Robertson (29th), and Sen. Still (48th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Harbison (15th), Sen. Lucas (26th), and Sen. Merritt (9th) voted against the motion.

The Chair recognized Sen. Robertson (29th) who made the motion to **Amend** by inserting on line 8, "and applicability," after the word date and before the semicolon. Sen. Harbin (16th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 6-3.

Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Harbin (16th), Sen. Hodges (3rd), Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd), Sen. Robertson (29th), and Sen. Still (48th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Harbison (15th), Sen. Lucas (26th), and Sen. Merritt (9th) voted against the motion.

The Chair indicated his preference that the adopted amendments be incorporated into a new committee substitute.

The Chair recognized Sen. Robertson (29th) who made the motion that **SB 39 Do Pass by Substitute.** Sen. Harbin (16th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 6-3.

Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Harbin (16th), Sen. Hodges (3rd), Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd), Sen. Robertson (29th), and Sen. Still (48th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Harbison (15th), Sen. Lucas (26th), and Sen. Merritt (9th) voted against the motion.

Committee Recommendation: SB 39 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 46 1061S)

Chairman Walker (20th) adjourned the meeting at 3:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

s/s
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd) Secretary

s/s
Orla Fennell, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Insurance and Labor
Thursday, February 13, 2025

The Senate Committee on Insurance and Labor met on Tuesday, February 13, 2025, at 4:30 p.m. in Room 125 of the State Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Larry Walker (20th), Chairman
Sen. Marty Harbin (16th), Vice Chairman
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd), Secretary (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th)
Sen. Mike Hodges (3rd)
Sen. Nikki Merritt (9th) (*Left Early*)
Sen. Randy Robertson (29th) (*Arrived Late*)

NOTE: Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Ex-Officio, Sen. Ed Harbison (15th), Sen. David Lucas (26th), Sen. Shawn Still (48th), Ex-Officio, were absent.

Chairman Walker (20th) called the meeting to order at 4:34 p.m.

SB 55 (Sen. Hickman, 4th, LC 55 0416) "Dignity and Pay Act"; enact

NOTE: Sen. Robertson (29th) arrived at 4:35 p.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Billy Hickman (4th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Hickman (4th) presented the bill to the committee.

NOTE: Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) arrived at 4:46 p.m.

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

Testimony in favor of the bill:
Charlotte Densmore, Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities
Leah Soller, Georgia Council on Disabilities
Lisa Newborn, Georgia Council on Disabilities
Charlie Miller, Georgia Council on Disabilities

Testimony in opposition of the bill:
Leigh McIntosh, Creative Enterprises
Ted Ward, Creative Enterprises

The Chair recognized Sen. Robertson (29th) who made the motion that **SB 55 Do Pass (LC 55 0416).** Sen. Merritt (9th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SB 55 DO PASS (LC 55 0416)

SB 121 (Sen. Harbin, 16th, LC 52 0649) Uninsured Motorist Coverage; minimum required under motor vehicle liability policies for an individual convicted of driving under the influence or reckless driving; increase

The Chair indicated that SB 121 would receive a hearing only.

The Chair recognized Sen. Harbin (16th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Harbin (16th) presented the bill to the committee.

NOTE: Sen. Merritt (9th) left early at 5:34 p.m.

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

Testimony in favor of the bill:
Bobby Potter, State Farm
Bryce Rawson, Office of the Commissioner on Insurance and Fire Safety

Testimony in opposition to the bill:
None

Committee Recommendation: SB 121 (LC 52 0649) No Action was Taken

The Chair referred SB 60 (LC 46 1012) to a subcommittee. The Subcommittee was chaired by Sen. Robertson (29th), and the subcommittee members were Sen. Hodges (3rd) and Sen. Harbison (15th).

Chairman Walker (20th) adjourned the meeting at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

s/s
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd) Secretary

s/s
Orla Fennell, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Insurance and Labor
Tuesday, February 18, 2025

The Senate Committee on Insurance and Labor met on Tuesday, February 18, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. in Mezzanine 1 of the State Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Larry Walker (20th), Chairman
Sen. Marty Harbin (16th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd), Secretary
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Ed Harbison (15th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Mike Hodges (3rd)
Sen. David Lucas (26th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Randy Robertson (29th)

NOTE: Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Ex-Officio, Sen. Nikki Merritt (9th), and Sen. Shawn Still (48th), Ex-Officio, were absent.

Chairman Walker (20th) called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

SB 56 (Sen. Anavitarte, 31st, LC 39 4428) Georgia State Indemnification Fund; the Department of Administrative Services to purchase annuities for the payment of indemnification claims; authorize

The Chair recognized Sen. Jason Anavitarte (31st) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Anavitarte (31st) presented the bill to the committee.

NOTE: Sen. Harbison (15th) arrived at 10:07 a.m.
NOTE: Sen. Cowsert (46th) arrived at 10:09 a.m.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment

NOTE: Sen. Lucas (26th) arrived at 10:16 a.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) who made a motion to **Amend** by striking Section IV and renumbering Section V as Section IV. Sen. Harbin (16th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 6-1.

Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Harbin (16th), Sen. Harbison (15th), Sen. Hodges (3rd), Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd), and Sen. Robertson (29th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Lucas (26th) voted against the motion.

The Chair indicated his preference that the adopted amendments be incorporated into a new committee substitute.

The Chair recognized Sen. Robertson (29th) who made the motion that **SB 56 Do Pass by Substitute.** Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 6-1.

Sen. Harbin (16th), Sen. Harbison (15th), Sen. Hodges (3rd), Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd), Sen. Lucas (26th), and Sen. Robertson (29th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Cowsert (46th) voted against the motion.

Committee Recommendation: SB 56 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 46 1123S)

Chairman Walker (20th) adjourned the meeting at 10:29 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

s/s
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd) Secretary

s/s
Orla Fennell, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Insurance and Labor
Tuesday, February 25, 2025

The Senate Committee on Insurance and Labor met on Tuesday, February 25, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. in Mezzanine 1 of the State Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Larry Walker (20th), Chairman
Sen. Marty Harbin (16th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd), Secretary
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th)
Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Ex-Officio (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Ed Harbison (15th)
Sen. Mike Hodges (3rd)
Sen. David Lucas (26th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Randy Robertson (29th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Shawn Still (48th), Ex-Officio (*Arrived Late*)

NOTE: Sen. Nikki Merritt (9th) was absent.

Chairman Walker (20th) called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Still (48th) arrived at 3:05 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Robertson (29th) arrived at 3:06 p.m.

SB 191 (Sen. Still, 48th, LC 46 1093) Employment Security; certain notice provisions relating to benefits and appeals; revise

The Chair recognized Sen. Still (48th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Still (48th) and Jeff Dalrymple, with the Georgia Department of Revenue, presented the bill to the committee.

The Chair recognized Sen. Harbison (15th) who made the motion that **SB 191 Do Pass (LC 46 1093).** Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SB 191 DO PASS (LC 46 1093)

SB 230 (Sen. Still, 48th, LC 55 0489) Condominiums; maximum amount of insurance deductibles payable by unit owners; remove the limitation

The Chair recognized Sen. Still (48th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Still (48th) presented the bill to the committee.

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

Testimony in favor of the bill:
Julie Howard, Georgia Chapter of Community Association Institute
Sean Ruthvan, Georgia Chapter of Community Association Institute

Testimony in opposition to the bill:
None

NOTE: Sen. Lucas (26th) arrived at 3:41 p.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Robertson (29th) who made the motion that **SB 230 Do Pass (LC 55 0489)**. Sen. Hodges (3rd) seconded the motion.

Sen. Robertson (29th) withdrew the motion SB 230 Do Pass (LC 55 0489). Sen. Cowsert (46th) seconded the motion to withdraw.

Committee Recommendation: SB 230 (LC 55 0489) No Action was Taken

SB 205 (Sen. Watson, 11th, LC 52 0719) Insurance, pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders; require coverage for healthcare services

The Chair indicated that SB 205 would receive a hearing only.

The Chair recognized Sen. Sam Watson (11th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Watson (11th) and Heather Ward, with the Southeastern PANS/PANDAS Association, presented the bill to the committee.

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

Testimony in favor of the bill:
Arthur Owens, Private Citizen
Sharon Zinnas, Private Citizen
Will Ward, Private Citizen

Testimony in opposition to the bill:
None

NOTE: Sen. Gooch (51st) arrived at 4:07 p.m.

Committee Recommendation: SB 205 (LC 52 0719) No Action was Taken

Chairman Walker (20th) adjourned the meeting at 4:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

s/s
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd) Secretary

s/s
Orla Fennell, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Insurance and Labor
Thursday, February 27, 2025

The Senate Committee on Insurance and Labor met on Thursday, February 27, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. in Mezzanine 1 of the State Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Larry Walker (20th), Chairman
Sen. Marty Harbin (16th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd), Secretary
Sen. Ed Harbison (15th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Mike Hodges (3rd)
Sen. Nikki Merritt (9th) (*Left Early*)
Sen. Randy Robertson (29th)
Sen. Shawn Still (48th), Ex-Officio

NOTE: Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Ex-Officio, and Sen. David Lucas (26th) were absent.

Chairman Walker (20th) called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

SB 230 (Sen. Still, 48th, LC 55 0489) Condominiums; maximum amount of insurance deductibles payable by unit owners; remove the limitation

The Chair recognized Sen. Still (48th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Still (48th) presented the bill to the committee.

The Chair recognized Sen. Harbin (16th) who made the motion that **SB 230 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 46 1174S)**. Sen. Hodges (3rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SB 230 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 46 1174S)

SB 121 (Sen. Harbin, 16th, LC 52 0694) Uninsured Motorist Coverage; minimum required motor vehicle liability policies for an individual convicted of driving under the influence or reckless driving; increase

The Chair recognized Sen. Harbin (16th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Harbin (16th) presented the bill to the committee.

The Chair recognized Sen. Still (48th) who made the motion that **SB 121 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 46 1181S)**. Sen. Robertson (29th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 5-1.

Sen. Harbin (16th), Sen. Hodges (3rd), Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd), Sen. Robertson (29th), and Sen. Still (48th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Merritt (9th) voted against the motion.

Committee Recommendation: SB 121 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 46 1181S)

SB 201 (Sen. Walker, 20th, LC 46 1107) Consumer Transactions; increased consumer protection for homeowners entering into contracts with contractors following natural disasters; provide

NOTE: Sen. Harbin (16th) assumed the role of Chair, at 4:28 p.m., for the purpose of Sen. Walker to present the bill to the Committee.

The Chair recognized Sen. Walker (20th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Walker (20th) presented the bill to the committee.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment

NOTE: Sen. Harbison (15th) arrived at 4:56 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Merritt (9th) left early at 4:57 p.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Robertson (29th) who made the motion to **Amend** by inserting on line 35 a colon after the word "disaster" and striking "according to a reasonable-person standard:". Amending line 85, after "to collect the" insert "reasonable" in between "the" and "amount." Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair indicated his preference that the adopted amendments be incorporated into a new committee substitute.

The Chair recognized Sen. Still (48th) who made the motion that **SB 201 Do Pass by Substitute.** Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SB 201 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 46 1185S)

Vice-Chairman Harbin (16th) adjourned the meeting at 4:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

s/s
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd) Secretary

s/s
Orla Fennell, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Senate Subcommittee on Insurance and Labor
Friday, February 28, 2025

The Senate Subcommittee on Insurance and Labor met on Friday, February 28, 2025, at 7:00 a.m. in Mezzanine 1 of the State Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Randy Robertson (29th), Chairman
Sen. Ed Harbison (15th)
Sen. Mike Hodges (3rd) (*Left Early*)

Chairman Robertson (29th) called the meeting to order at 7:02 a.m.

SB 60 (Sen. Hufstetler, 52nd, LC 46 1012) Pharmacy Benefit Managers; managers have a duty of care to insureds, health plans, and providers; provide

The Chair recognized Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Hufstetler (52nd) presented the bill to the committee.

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

Testimony in Favor:
Sarah Balog, Pharmaceutical Research & Manufacturers of America
Collier Williams, National Multiple Sclerosis Society

Testimony in Opposition:
Kash Trivedi, Capitol City Public Affairs
Michael Power, Pharmaceutical Care Management Association
Michael Riley, Georgia Association of Health Plans

NOTE: Sen. Hodges (3rd) left early at 8:10 a.m.

Committee Recommendation: SB 60 (LC 46 1012) No Action was Taken

Chairman Walker (20th) adjourned the meeting at 8:21 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

s/s
Sen. Randy Robertson (29th), Chairman

s/s
Orla Fennell, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Insurance and Labor
Monday, March 3, 2025

The Senate Committee on Insurance and Labor met on Monday, March 3, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. in Room 450 of the State Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Larry Walker (20th), Chairman
Sen. Marty Harbin (16th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd), Secretary
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Mike Hodges (3rd)
Sen. Randy Robertson (29th)
Sen. Shawn Still (48th), Ex-Officio (*Arrived Late*)

NOTE: Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Ex-Officio, Sen. Ed Harbison (15th), Sen. David Lucas (26th), and Sen. Nikki Merritt (9th) were absent.

Chairman Walker (20th) called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

SB 276 (Sen. Echols, 49th, LC 52 0780) Recovery of Medical Assistance from Third party; certain provisions to comply with federal law; revise

The Chair recognized Sen. Drew Echols (49th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Echols (49th) presented the bill to the committee.

NOTE: Sen. Still (48th) arrived at 9:09 a.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Hodges (3rd) who made the motion that **SB 276 Do Pass (LC 52 0780).** Sen. Robertson (29th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SB 276 DO PASS (LC 52 0780)

SB 284 (Sen. Walker, 20th, LC 55 0536) "Georgia Uniform Securities Act of 2008,"; issuance of orders by the Commissioner of Securities directing persons who have violated certain securities provisions to return; authorize

Sen. Walker (20th) presented the bill to the committee.

The Chair recognized Sen. Robertson (29th) who made the motion that **SB 284 (LC 55 0536).** Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SB 284 DO PASS (LC 55 0536)

SB 243 (Sen. Walker, 20th, LC 39 4660) Back the Blue Fund; authorized use of money; revise

Sen. Walker (20th) presented the bill to the committee.

NOTE: Sen. Cowsert (46th) arrived late at 9:30 a.m.

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

Testimony in favor of the bill:
Terry Norris, Georgia Sheriffs Association

Testimony in opposition to the bill:
None

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment

The Chair recognized Sen. Robertson (29th) who made the motion to **Amend** by inserting on line 53 "or retention" after "training" and before "of certified peace officers." and on line 56, after "Code Section," insert "for training of certified police officers." Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair recognized Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) who made the motion to **Amend** by inserting on line 45 "which shall distribute such moneys in equal portions to the sheriff of each 46 county in this state on a per county basis" after the word "Council." Sen. Robertson (29th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair indicated his preference that the adopted amendments be incorporated into a new committee substitute.

The Chair recognized Sen. Cowsert (46th) who made the motion that **SB 243 Do Pass by Substitute.** Sen. Still (48th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SB 243 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 46 1196S)

Chairman Walker (20th) adjourned the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

s/s
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd) Secretary

s/s
Orla Fennell, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Insurance and Labor
Tuesday, March 11, 2025

The Senate Committee on Insurance and Labor met on Tuesday, March 11, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. in Mezzanine 1 of the State Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Larry Walker (20th), Chairman
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd), Secretary
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th)
Sen. Mike Hodges (3rd)
Sen. Nikki Merritt (9th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Shawn Still (48th), Ex-Officio

NOTE: Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Ex-Officio, Sen. Marty Harbin (16th), Vice-Chairman, Sen. Ed Harbison (15th), Sen. David Lucas (26th), and Sen. Randy Robertson (29th) were absent.

Chairman Walker (20th) called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Merritt (9th) arrived at 3:07 p.m.

HB 182 (Rep. Lumsden, 12th, LC 52 0067) Life insurance; excluding or restricting liability for certain deaths occurring while an individual is an active-duty service member; prohibit

The Chair recognized Rep. Eddie Lumsden (12th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Lumsden (12th) and Bryce Rawson, with Office of the Commissioner of Insurance and Fire Safety, presented the bill to the committee.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) who made the motion to **Amend** by striking on line 3 “active duty” and inserting “a” and on line 40 to striking “an active duty” and inserting “a”. Sen. Still 48th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair indicated his preference that the adopted amendments be incorporated into a new committee substitute.

The Chair recognized Sen. Cowsert (46th) who made the motion that **HB 182 Do Pass by Substitute.** Sen. Hodges (3rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: HB 182 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 46 1215S)

HB 410 (Rep. DeLoach, 167th, LC 52 9000) Insurance, Department of; efficiency in the practices; provide

The Chair recognized Rep. Buddy DeLoach (167th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. DeLoach (167th) and Bryce Rawson, with the Office of the Commissioner of Insurance and Fire Safety, presented the bill to the committee.

The Chair recognized Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) who made the motion that **HB 410 Do Pass (LC 52 9000).** Sen. Cowsert (46th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: HB 410 DO PASS (LC 52 9000)

HB 422 (Rep. McCollum, 30th, LC 55 0485) State Employees' health insurance; include high deductible health plans

The Chair indicated that HB 422 would receive a hearing only.

The Chair recognized Rep. Derrick McCollum (30th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. DeLoach (167th), Brandy Sylvan with the Department of Community Health, and Loui Ami with the State Health Benefit Plan, presented the bill to the committee.

NOTE: Sen. Merritt (9th) left at 3:30 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Merritt (9th) returned at 3:37 p.m.

Committee Recommendation: HB 422 (LC 55 0485) No Action was Taken

SB 267 (Sen. Esteves, 35th, LC 46 1149) State Employee Benefit Plan Council; establish health savings accounts and to continually provide for education or salary reductions for such accounts; require

The Chair indicated that SB 267 would receive a hearing only.

The Chair recognized Sen. Jason Esteves (35th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Esteves (35th) presented the bill to the committee.

Testimony in favor of the bill:
Brandy Sylvan, Department of Community Health
Loui Amis, State Health Benefit Plan

Testimony in opposition to the bill:
None

Committee Recommendation: SB 267 (LC 46 1149) No Action was Taken

Chairman Walker (20th) adjourned the meeting at 3:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

s/s
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd) Secretary

s/s
Orla Fennell, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Insurance and Labor
Thursday, March 13, 2025

The Senate Committee on Insurance and Labor met on Thursday, March 13, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. in Mezzanine 1 of the State Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Larry Walker (20th), Chairman
Sen. Marty Harbin (16th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd), Secretary
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th)
Sen. Ed Harbison (15th) (*Arrived Late) (Left Early*)
Sen. Mike Hodges (3rd)
Sen. Nikki Merritt (9th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Shawn Still (48th), Ex-Officio

NOTE: Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Ex-Officio, and Sen. David Lucas (26th), and Sen. Randy Robertson (29th) were absent.

Chairman Walker (20th) called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

HB 197 (Rep. Hawkins, 27th, LC 46 1010) Insurance; health care provider to respond to a private review agent or utility entity's attempt to discuss the patient's care; detail the effort

The Chair recognized Rep. Lee Hawkins (27th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Hawkins (27th) presented the bill to the committee.

Testimony in favor of the bill:
Jesse Weathington, Georgia Association of Health Plans

Testimony in opposition to the bill:
None

The Chair recognized Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) who made the motion that **HB 197 Do Pass (LC 46 1010).** Sen. Cowsert (46th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: HB 197 DO PASS (LC 46 1010)

NOTE: Sen. Merritt (9th) arrived late at 4:08 p.m.

HB 348 (Rep. Williams, 112th, LC 52 0715) Insurance; expand lines of insurance or reinsurance in which a limited purpose subsidiary and captive insurance company may engage

The Chair recognized Rep. Bruce Williams (112th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Williams (112th) presented the bill to the committee.

Testimony in favor of the bill:
Bryce Rawson, Office of the Commissioner of Insurance and Fire Safety
Jeremy Betts, Office of Commissioner of Insurance and Fire Safety

Testimony in opposition to the bill:
None

The Chair recognized Sen. Still (48th) who made the motion that **HB 348 Do Pass (LC 52 0715).** Sen. Hodges (3rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 4-2.

Sen. Harbin (16th), Sen. Hodges (3rd), Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd), and Sen. Still (48th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Cowsert (46th) and Sen. Merritt (9th) voted against the motion.

Committee Recommendation: HB 348 DO PASS (LC 52 0715)

HB 422 (Rep. McCollum, 30th, LC 55 0485) State employees' health insurance; include high deductible health plans

The Chair recognized Rep. Derrick McCollum (30th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. McCollum (30th) presented the bill to the committee.

The Chair recognized Sen. Harbin (16th) who made the motion that **HB 422 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 55 0597S).** Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 5-1.

Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Harbin (16th), Sen. Hodges (3rd), Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd), and Sen. Still (48th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Merritt (9th) voted against the motion.

Committee Recommendation: HB 422 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 55 0597S)

HB 196 (Rep. Kelley, 16th, LC 57 0229S) State employees' health insurance plan; drugs dispensed for self-administration; provisions

The Chair indicated that HB 196 would receive a hearing only.

The Chair recognized Rep. Trey Kelley (16th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Kelley (16th) presented the bill to the committee.

NOTE: Sen. Harbison (15th) arrived at 4:37 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Harbison (15th) left early at 4:43 p.m.

Committee Recommendation: HB 196 (LC 57 0229S) No Action was Taken

The Chair referred HB 250 (LC 52 0804S) to a subcommittee. The Subcommittee was chaired by Sen. Harbin (16th), and the subcommittee members were Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd), Sen. Merritt (9th), and Senator Still (48th)

Chairman Walker (20th) adjourned the meeting at 4:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

s/s
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd), Secretary

s/s
Orla Fennell, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Insurance and Labor
Wednesday, March 19, 2025

The Senate Committee on Insurance and Labor met on Wednesday, March 19, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. in Mezzanine 1 of the State Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Larry Walker (20th), Chairman
Sen. Marty Harbin (16th), Vice Chairman (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd), Secretary
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Ed Harbison (15th)
Sen. Mike Hodges (3rd)
Sen. Nikki Merritt (9th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Randy Robertson (29th)
Sen. Shawn Still (48th), Ex-Officio

NOTE: Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Ex-Officio, and Sen. David Lucas (26th) were not present.

Chairman Walker (20th) called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Harbin (16th) arrived late at 5:03 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Cowsert (46th) arrived late at 5:05 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Merritt (9th) arrived late at 5:05 p.m.

HB 94 (Rep. Lumsden, 12th, LC 52 0653) Insurance; medically necessary expenses for standard fertility preservation services when a medically necessary treatment for cancer, sickle cell disease, or lupus may directly or indirectly cause an impairment of fertility; require coverage

The Chair recognized Rep. Eddie Lumsden (12th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Lumsden (12th) presented the bill to the committee.

The Chair recognized Sen. Robertson (29th) who made the motion that **HB 94 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 52 0845S).** Sen. Harbison (15th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: HB 94 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 52 0845S)

HB 196 (Rep. Kelley, 16th, LC 57 0229S) State employee's health insurance plan; drugs dispensed for self-administration provisions

The Chair recognized Rep. Trey Kelley (16th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Kelley (16th) presented the bill to the committee.

The Chair recognized Sen. Hodges (3rd) who made the motion that **HB 196 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 57 0274S).** Sen. Harbin (16th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: HB 196 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 57 0274S)

Chairman Walker (20th) adjourned the meeting at 5:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

s/s
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd) Secretary

s/s
Orla Fennell, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Senate Subcommittee on Insurance and Labor
Wednesday, March 19, 2025

The Senate Committee on Insurance and Labor met on Wednesday, March 19, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Marty Harbin (16th), Chairman
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd)
Sen. Nikki Merritt (9th)
Sen. Shawn Still (48th)

Chairman Harbin (16th) called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

HB 250 (Rep. Taylor, 173rd, LC 52 0804S) Better Small Business Employee Benefits Act; enact

The Chair recognized Rep. Darlene Taylor (173rd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Taylor (173rd) and John Walraven, with Georgia Governmental Affairs, presented the bill to the committee.

Testimony in favor of the bill:
None

Testimony in opposition to the bill:
Mike Iverson, Independent Insurance Agents of Georgia
Ken Thaxton, Dean Thaxton, LLC

Testimony neutral to the bill:
Bobby Potter, State Board of Worker's Compensation Advisory Council

Committee Recommendation: HB 205 (LC 52 0804S) No Action was Taken

Chairman Harbin (16th) adjourned the meeting at 7:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

s/s
Sen. Marty Harbin (16th), Chairman

s/s
Orla Fennell, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Insurance and Labor
Tuesday, March 25, 2025

The Senate Committee on Insurance and Labor met on Tuesday, March 25, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. in Mezzanine 1 of the State Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Larry Walker (20th), Chairman
Sen. Marty Harbin (16th) Vice Chairman *(Arrived Late)*
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd), Secretary
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th) (*Arrived Late) (Left Early*)
Sen. Ed Harbison (15th)
Sen. David Lucas (26th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Nikki Merritt (9th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Randy Robertson (29th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Shawn Still (48th), Ex-Officio

NOTE: Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Ex-Officio, and Sen. Mike Hodges (3rd) were absent.

Chairman Walker (20th) called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

HB 87 (Rep. Clark, 100th, LC 52 0770S) Insurance; require health benefit policy coverage for medically necessary orthotic and prosthetic devices and their materials and components

The Chair indicated that HB 87 would receive a hearing only.

The Chair recognized Rep. David Clark (100th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Clark (100th) presented the bill to the committee.

NOTE: Sen. Harbin (16th) arrived at 4:04 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Robertson (29th) arrived at 4:05 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Merritt (9th) arrived at 4:06 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Cowsert (46th) arrived at 4:07 p.m.

Testimony in favor of the bill:
Rachel Auyer, Georgia Society of Orthotists and Prosthetists
Abigail Thompson, Shepard Center
Susie & Elliot Barrett, Georgia Society of Orthotists and Prosthetists

Testimony in opposition to the bill:
None

NOTE: Sen. Robertson (29th) left at 4:21 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Robertson (29th) returned at 4:22 p.m.

Committee Recommendation: HB 87 (LC 52 0770S) No Action was Taken

HB 124 (Rep. Scoggins, 14th, LC 52 0603) Insurance; require coverage for healthcare services for pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders; provisions

The Chair indicated that HB 124 would receive a hearing only.

The Chair recognized Rep. Mitchell Scoggins (14th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Scoggins (14th) presented the bill to the committee.

NOTE: Sen. Lucas (26th) arrived late at 4:31 p.m.

Testimony in favor of the bill:
Representative Michelle Au, Georgia House of Representatives

Testimony in opposition to the bill:
None

Committee Recommendation: HB 124 (LC 52 0603) No Action was Taken

HB 323 (Rep. Mathiak, 82nd, LC 46 1064) Bridging the Gap for ALS and Chronic Kidney Disease Act of 2025; enact

The Chair indicated that HB 323 would receive a hearing only.

The Chair recognized Rep. Karen Mathiak (82nd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Mathiak (32nd) presented the bill to the committee.

Testimony in favor of the bill:
Elizabeth Lively, Dialysis Patient Citizens
Richard McDaniel, American Kidney Fund
Melissa Korm, ALS United of Georgia (Zoom)

Testimony in opposition to the bill:
Jesse Wethington, Georgia Association of Health Plans

Committee Recommendation: HB 323 (LC 46 1064) No Action was Taken

NOTE: Sen. Cowsert (46th) left early at 5:01 p.m.

HB 373 (Rep. Glaize, 67th, LC 46 1095S) Insurance; annual prostate cancer screenings for certain men; require major medical coverage

The Chair indicated that HB 373 would receive a hearing only.

The Chair recognized Rep. Lydia Glaize (67th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Glaize (67th) presented the bill to the committee.

Testimony in favor of the bill:
Whitney Griggs, Georgians for a Healthy Future

Testimony in opposition to the bill:
None

Committee Recommendation: HB 373 (LC 46 1095S) No Action was Taken

Chairman Walker (20th) adjourned the meeting at 5:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

s/s
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd) Secretary

s/s
Orla Fennell, Recording Secretary