

SENATE GOVERNMENT
OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

2009

Senator Renee Unterman, 45th, Chairman
P.O. Box 508
Buford, GA 30518

Senator Don Thomas, 54th, Ex-Officio
121-G State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334

Senator Ronnie Chance, 16th, Vice-Chairman
130 Regal Oak
Tyrone, GA 30290

Senator Steve Henson, 41st, Secretary
2643 Sterling Acres Drive
Tucker, GA 30084

Senator Gail Buckner, 44th
7324 Cardif Place
Jonesboro, GA 30236

Senator Greg Goggans, 7th
1300 Hampton Road
Douglas, GA 31533

Senator Tim Golden, 8th
110 Beacon Hill
Valdosta, GA 31602

Senator Johnny Grant, 25th
P.O. Box 1458
Milledgeville, GA 31059

Senator Seth Harp, 29th
P.O. Box 363
Midland, GA 31820

Senator Bill Heath, 31st
2225 Cashtown Road
Bremen, GA 30110

Senator Jeff Mullis, 53rd
212 English Avenue
Chickamauga, GA 30707

Senator Ed Tarver, 22nd
P.O. Box 15473
Augusta, GA 30919

2009 – 2010 SENATE GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE RULES

1. Quorum of the committee shall be six (6) members.
2. The Chairman shall determine which cases or investigations shall be heard and the order in which said hearings are to commence.
3. The Chairman shall have the authority to refer cases or investigations to subcommittee for study. Such subcommittees, in turn, shall have the authority to make recommendations on such cases to the full committee.
4. The Committee shall convene, recess, put all questions and adjourn upon order of the Chairman, subject to the rules of the Senate.
5. Any member or members of the Committee who disagree with the majority report of the Committee shall be privileged to file a minority report.
6. After adoption, these rules may be amended upon motion duly made, seconded, and subsequently approved by a two-third vote of the members of the Committee.
7. The secretary of the Committee shall distribute a copy of these rules to all Members of the Senate Government Oversight Committee.

Minutes of the Senate Government Oversight Committee

February 4, 2009

A meeting of the Senate Government Oversight Committee was held on February 4, 2009 in the Senate Mezzanine Room of the Capitol. Chairman Unterman called the meeting to order at 3:09 p.m. Members present included Senators Chance of the 16th, Henson of the 41st, Buckner of the 44th, Goggans of the 7th, Grant of the 25th, Harp of the 29th, Heath of the 31st, Mullis of the 53rd, Tarver of the 22nd, and Thomas of the 54th, Ex-Officio.

Chairman Unterman welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the 2009 legislative session. The adoption of the Committee Rules was the first order of business. The Chairman asked everyone to review the rules and after review, if there were no objections, she'd ask for someone to entertain a motion to adopt the Rules.

Senator Mullis moved that the Committee adopt the Rules, and with a second from Senator Harp, the motion carried unanimously.

SB 21 (Pearson, 51st) *State Purchasing; require certain percentage of all funds appropriated to state's various budget units; projects/contracts involving small businesses*

Senator Pearson presented the bill. This changes current law with relation to state purchasing, to require that a certain percentage of all projects and contracts be awarded to small businesses; to provide that small businesses are considered wherever reasonable and practicable prior to a principal representative entering into a contract for professional services on behalf of certain state entities.

NOTE: Senators Grant and Henson arrived at 3:15 p.m.
Senators Goggans and Tarver arrived at 3:23 p.m.

In favor of the bill is Joe Kim of GA Department of Administrative Services. Todd Edwards of ACCG, Lamar Norton of GMA, and Mark Woodall of the Association of General Contractors, all expressed concerns with the bill. Items of discussion included not always able to use local businesses because expertise is not there; preferential treatment; what the true definition of "reasonable and practical" is.

Chairman Unterman asked that Senator Pearson meet with all concerned parties to see if any amendments can be made to the bill before we bring it to a vote.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 3:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Steve Henson 41st, Secretary

/s/ Debra Charnote, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Senate Government Oversight Committee

February 18, 2009

A meeting of the Senate Government Oversight Committee was held on February 18, 2009 in Room 450 of the Capitol. Chairman Unterman called the meeting to order at 3:08 p.m. Members present included Senators Chance of the 16th, Henson of the 41st, Golden of the 8th, Grant of the 25th, Harp of the 29th, Heath of the 31st, Mullis of the 53rd, Tarver of the 22nd, and Thomas of the 54th, Ex-Officio.

SB 21 (Pearson, 51st) *State Purchasing; require certain percentage of all funds appropriated to state's various budget units; projects/contracts involving small businesses*

Senator Pearson presented a committee substitute to the bill. This bill requires state agencies and local governments to dedicate at least 10 percent of their appropriated funds to small businesses, whenever reasonable and practicable; however, there must be no sacrifice in price or quality in the award of such contracts. For state contracts, the Office of Planning and Budget would be charged with auditing contracts to determine compliance with the 10 percent requirement and would be required to report their findings to the Senate and House Committees on Economic Development. Similarly, local government would be required to include in their annual audit information demonstrating their compliance.

The bill also includes changes to the current Small Business Assistance Act. It changes the definition of “small business” so as to include a business with fewer than 100 employees or less than \$10 million in annual gross receipts. It also changes the required times for meetings of the advisory council on small business enterprises from monthly to quarterly.

NOTE: Senator Thomas arrived at 3:16 p.m.

Mr. Lamar Norton of the Georgia Municipal Association stated that local governments already have a strong incentive to do business with small businesses in their community, for the sake of their local economies. However, he was concerned that the requirement would cause litigation over those occasions where it is best to give a contract to a non-small business. In response, a substitute was drafted that specified that “there must be no sacrifice in price or quality...”

Senator Pearson also presented a letter from Legislative Counsel Sewell Brumby who stated that there is precedent in both statute and case law for the use of the phrase “reasonable and practicable.” In favor of the bill as amended were Lamar Norton GMA and Mark Woodall of the Association of General Contractors.

Senator Heath moved that **SB 21 Do Pass by Substitute**, and Senator Mullis seconded. The bill passed unanimously.

SB 21 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE

SB 124 (Heath, 31st) *Public Disclosure; provide social security numbers in public documents shall not be disclosed*

Senator Heath presented the bill. Social security numbers must not be disclosed in any Open Records request. Although certain identifying information must normally be redacted from documents disclosed pursuant to the Open Records Act, current law allows for the disclosure of the social security numbers and dates of birth of certain individuals for requests by the media. This bill removes this provision, so that social security numbers and dates of birth must always be redacted. Senator Heath said that there is no reason for the media to have access to such personal information when others do not have this privilege.

Senator Chance moved that **SB 124 Do Pass**, and Senator Harp seconded the motion. The bill passed unanimously.

SB 124 DO PASS

NOTE: Senator Tarver arrived at 3:22 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 3:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Steve Henson 41st, Secretary

/s/ Debra Charnote, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Senate Government Oversight Committee

March 4, 2009

A meeting of the Senate Government Oversight Committee was held on March 4, 2009 in the Senate Mezzanine Room of the Capitol. Chairman Unterman called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.m. Members present included Senators Chance of the 16th, Henson of the 41st, Buckner of the 44th, Grant of the 25th, Heath of the 31st, Mullis of the 53rd, and Tarver of the 22nd.

SB 44 (Tolleson, 20th) *Government; certain supplies, materials, agricultural products manufactured in this state; provide contractual/purchasing preferences*

Senator Tolleson presented the bill. This bill would require public schools and state and local governmental bodies to give preference to Georgia-made items in purchasing or contracting for supplies, materials, equipments, or agricultural products (excluding beverages for immediate consumption), when reasonable and practicable. In determining the reasonableness of the preference in cases where the contract or purchase amount exceeds \$100,000, schools and governmental bodies are to consider, among other factors, information submitted by the bidder which may include the bidder's estimate of the multiplier effect on gross state domestic product and the effect on state and local revenues. The bill requires these estimates to be in writing and prohibits a contract or purchase from being divided for purposes of avoiding these requirements. A substitute was offered that softened the requirement to give a preference to Georgia-made products, revised what data governmental entities were required to use for their decision, and removed an additional preference for Georgia sellers. Senator Tolleson stated that, rather than strictly requiring state and local governmental agencies to purchase Georgia-made products, this bill simply encourages governments to consider the economic impact of making or not making such a choice.

NOTE: Senator Mullis arrived at 3:17 p.m.

In favor of the bill was Bruce Widener of Blue Bird buses. Joe Kim of the Department of Administrative Services stated that DOAS was opposed to the original bill, as it may create additional burdens. When informed that the substitute included changes to address these concerns, DOAS withdrew its objection.

Senator Henson moved that **SB 44 Do Pass by Substitute**, and Senator Mullis seconded. The bill passed unanimously.

SB 44 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE

SB 118 (Brown, 26th) **Appraisers; prohibit persons who are serving/have served a member of county board of tax assessors from serving as employee of the board**

Senator Brown presented the bill. This bill prohibits anyone who is serving or who has served on a county board of tax assessors within the past 12 months from serving as an employee of that board. He explained that this bill was inspired by a situation in which a member of a county board of tax assessors voted to fire an employee and subsequently was hired to fill the same position.

Senator Chance moved that **SB 118 Do Pass**, and Senator Henson seconded the motion. The bill passed unanimously.

SB 118 DO PASS

SB 223 (Unterman, 45th) **Women's Reproductive Health Legislative Oversight Committee; create**

Chairman Unterman presented the bill. This bill creates the Women's Reproductive Health Legislative Oversight Committee (the committee). This committee is to be composed of four House members appointed by the House Speaker; four Senate members appointed by the Lieutenant Governor, and one House member and one Senate member appointed by the Governor. The committee is authorized to review the funding for and evaluate the effectiveness of all state and federally funded programs and health care providers and facilities that provide services related to women's reproductive health. It is also authorized to review the services provided by state agencies relating to licensed health care providers or facilities that provide treatments for sexually transmitted diseases, abortion, and follow-up health care after abortion.

State agencies receiving state or federal funding for women's reproductive health or that regulate health care providers or facilities licensed by the state are required to cooperate with the committee and provide any information required by the committee. The committee is to make an annual report of its activities and findings to the General Assembly and the Governor within one week of the convening of each regular legislative session.

Chairman Unterman explained that she wanted to create this committee to continue the hearings she has held on the Women's Right to Know Act to continue the work that she and other members have been doing. Senator Buckner questioned whether this newly created committee would have sufficient oversight and offered an amendment to include involvement by the Emory School of Public Health and the CDC. However, this amendment failed.

Senator Mullis moved that **SB 223 Do Pass**, and Senator Heath seconded the motion. The bill passed unanimously.

[SB 223 DO PASS](#)

[SB 170](#) (Adelman, 42nd) *State Purchasing; prohibit certain companies that have certain business operations in Sudan to bid on/submit a proposal for state contract*

Senator Adelman presented the bill. This bill prohibits companies doing certain business within Sudan from bidding on state contracts, with some exceptions. Under the bill, a "scrutinized company" is ineligible to bid on or submit a proposal for a contract with any state agency. A "scrutinized company" is a company conducting business operations in Sudan involving power production, mineral extraction, or oil-related activities, or the production of military equipment. However, a company will not be considered a scrutinized company if it can demonstrate certain circumstances, such as that its business is conducted only with the regional government of southern Sudan or its business operations consist of providing goods or services to peacekeeping or humanitarian organizations, etc.

The Department of Administrative Services (“DOAS”) does have the discretion to allow a scrutinized company to bid on or submit a proposal for a state contract if it is in the best interests of the state. Otherwise, state agencies must require any company having conducted business outside the U.S. within the past three years to certify it is not a scrutinized company if the company submits a contract bid or proposal. By August 1, 2009, DOAS must file a notice detailing these requirements with the U.S. Attorney General, as required by the federal Sudan Accountability and Divestment Act of 2007. DOAS must annually thereafter report to the General Assembly and the U.S. Attorney General on actions taken under these provisions. DOAS is to report the names of companies determined to have submitted false certifications to the Attorney General of Georgia; the Attorney General then is to decide whether to bring a civil action against the company. A company that has submitted a false certification is subject to (1) a civil penalty of \$250,000 or twice the contract amount, whichever is greater; (2) termination of its contract; and (3) ineligibility from bidding on a state contract for three years.

Senator Adelman explained that this bill only applies to certain industries. Senator Heath noted the adverse impact that recent retirement divestment legislation concerning Iran has had on at least a couple of Georgia businesses. Senator Adelman stated that divestment legislation is a much more complicated issue, but that this bill should not have such consequences. Moreover, provisions allowing the DOAS to grant a waiver to scrutinized companies should allay such concerns. Senator Heath also asked what the effect of similar laws in other states has had on the situation in Sudan. Senator Adelman acknowledged that the effect of a bill such as this one will be modest but that observers agree that the combined effect of economic sanctions has significantly weakened the position of the Sudanese government.

Melanie Nelkin, Chairman of Darfur Urgent Action Coalition of Georgia signed up in support of the bill.

Senator Henson moved that **SB 170 Do Pass**, and Senator Mullis seconded. The bill passed unanimously.

[SB 170 DO PASS](#)

NOTE: Senators Mullis and Henson left at 3:48 p.m.

SB 222 (Unterman, 45th) **State Health/Human Services; reorganize and reestablish various agencies**

Chairman Unterman presented the bill. This legislation reorganizes the state's health and human services agencies, establishing three new departments: the Department of Health, the Department of Human Services, and the Department of Behavioral Health. The bill also reassigns functions currently performed by the Department of Community Health and Department of Human Resources to these new entities. The Department of Health (DOH) is to perform all duties and undertake all functions previously performed by the Department of Community Health (DCH), the Division of Public Health of the Department of Human Resources (DHR), and the Office of Regulatory Services of DHR, unless otherwise specified. The Department of Human Services (DHS) is to assume all powers, functions, and duties previously handled by DHR, except for those relating to the Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Addictive Diseases, the Division of Public Health, and the Office of Regulatory Services, unless otherwise specified. Finally, the Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) is to assume all powers, functions, and duties previously handled by DHR's Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Addictive Diseases.

Chairman Unterman asked all committee members begin reviewing the bill, and we will reconvene tomorrow for our first hearing. All agencies with interest in the bill are welcome to submit suggested amendments.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 3:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Steve Henson 41st, Secretary

/s/ Debra Charnote, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Senate Government Oversight Committee

March 5, 2009

A meeting of the Senate Government Oversight Committee was held on March 5, 2009 in the Senate Mezzanine Room of the Capitol. Chairman Unterman called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m. Members present included Senators Henson of the 41st, Goggans of the 7th, Grant of the 25th, and Heath of the 31st.

Chairman Unterman explained that this meeting will be a *hearing only* of SB 222 due to the complex nature of the bill.

SB 222 (Unterman, 45th) **State Health/Human Services; reorganize and reestablish various agencies**

Chairman Unterman presented the bill. This legislation reorganizes the state's health and human services agencies, establishing three new departments: the Department of Health, the Department of Human Services, and the Department of Behavioral Health. The bill also reassigns functions currently performed by the Department of Community Health and Department of Human Resources to these new entities. The Department of Health (DOH) is to perform all duties and undertake all functions previously performed by the Department of Community Health (DCH), the Division of Public Health of the Department of Human Resources (DHR), and the Office of Regulatory Services of DHR, unless otherwise specified. The Department of Human Services (DHS) is to assume all powers, functions, and duties previously handled by DHR, except for those relating to the Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Addictive Diseases, the Division of Public Health, and the Office of Regulatory Services, unless otherwise specified. Finally, the Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) is to assume all powers, functions, and duties previously handled by DHR's Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Addictive Diseases.

NOTE: Senator Henson left at 10:40 a.m.

Chairman Unterman invited Irene Munn to explain proposed amendments for the bill. Changes proposed include, but are not limited to, some amendments offered by Senator Goggans, which clarified the duties and powers of the Division of Public Health; language offered by Paul Bolster of the Georgia Supportive Housing Association, which charges DBH to work on housing issues for the mentally ill; moving the suicide prevention program from Public Health to DBH; and modifying the definition of mental illness to more closely match federal definitions. Ellyn Jeager of Mental Health America of Georgia said she appreciated these changes but asked why the bill does not move addictive disease prevention to DBH. David Tanner of the Governor's Office of Budget and Planning said that program is a budget program not found in code, and that it is slated to move to DBH.

Others in support of the bill are Kim Raymond of Senior Citizens Advocacy Project, Scott Maxwell of GA Public Health Association, and Dawn Randolph of the GA Council on Substance Abuse.

A substitute will be drafted to include the amendments discussed and be made available to members of the committee via email to review before our next hearing on the bill.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 11:03 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Steve Henson 41st, Secretary

/s/ Debra Charnote, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the
Senate Government Oversight Committee**

March 9, 2009

A meeting of the Senate Government Oversight Committee was held on March 9, 2009 in the Senate Mezzanine Room of the Capitol. Senator Grant called the meeting to order at 8:42 a.m. Members present included Senators Henson of the 41st, Buckner of the 44th, Goggans of the 7th, Grant of the 25th, Heath of the 31st, Mullis of the 53rd, and Tarver of the 22nd.

SB 222 (Unterman, 45th) ***State Health/Human Services; reorganize and reestablish various agencies***

Senator Grant presented the bill. This legislation arises for the work of the Governor's Task Force. Originally, Developmental Disabilities was to go under the Department of Human Services (DHS), but after discussion it was decided it would be placed under the Department of Behavioral Health (DBH). Spending no additional money was a guiding principal for the reorganization. This legislation reorganizes the state's health and human services agencies, establishing three new departments: the Department of Health, the Department of Human Services, and the Department of Behavioral Health. The bill also reassigns functions currently performed by the Department of Community Health and Department of Human Resources to these new entities. The Department of Health (DOH) is to perform all duties and undertake all functions previously performed by the Department of Community Health (DCH), the Division of Public Health of the Department of Human Resources (DHR), and the Office of Regulatory Services of DHR, unless otherwise specified. The Department of Human Services (DHS) is to assume all powers, functions, and duties previously handled by DHR, except for those relating to the Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Addictive Diseases, the Division of Public Health, and the Office of Regulatory Services, unless otherwise specified. Finally, the Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) is to assume all powers, functions, and duties previously handled by DHR's Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Addictive Diseases.

Senator Grant presented a committee substitute and discussed changes submitted by agencies and the public. Changes from the original bill include, but are not limited to, some amendments offered by Senator Goggans, which clarified the duties and powers of the Division of Public Health; language offered by Paul Bolster of the Georgia Supportive Housing Association, which charges DBH to work on housing issues for the mentally ill; moving the suicide prevention program from Public Health to DBH; and modifying the definition of mental illness to more closely match federal definitions. Ellyn Jaeger of Mental Health America of Georgia said she appreciated these changes but asked why the bill does not move addictive disease prevention to DBH. David Tanner with the Governor's Office of Budget and Planning said that the program is a budget program not found in the code, and that it is slated to move to DBH.

NOTE: Senators Goggans and Mullis arrived at 8:47 a.m.

The following groups were in support of the bill: Supportive Housing Association; Senior Citizens Advocacy Project; Georgia Public Health Association; Mental Health America of Georgia; Georgia Council on Substance Abuse.

Senator Heath moved that **SB 222** Do Pass by Substitute, and Senator Henson seconded. The bill passed unanimously.

SB 222 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE

SB 225 (Grant, 25th) *Government; require state agencies to develop a privatization plan; establish Privatization Review Committee*

Senator Grant presented the bill. Under this legislation, a state agency that enters into an agreement to privatize one of its programs at a cost in excess of \$10 million must first prepare a privatization plan that includes certain information. This bill also creates a Privatization Review Committee to review these plans. This committee is to consist of six House and six Senate members, as well as three members of the public respectively representing labor, the business community, and a state public university. Agencies are to submit plans described above to the committee within 60 days of the date

on which the privatization plan is intended to become effective. The committee is to hold a hearing on the privatization plan within 30 days of the intended effective date. No more than five days after this hearing, the committee is to make a recommendation to the Governor on the privatization plan.

NOTE: Chairman Unterman arrived at 9:05 a.m.

Senator Grant explained that this bill simply requires agencies to perform due diligence before privatizing by looking at all factors involved, including cost savings as well as the economic effect. He emphasized that the bill takes no position on whether privatization is a good or bad thing. It simply gives the legislature an advisory role.

Senator Henson moved that **SB 225 Do Pass**, and Senator Harp seconded the motion. The bill passed unanimously.

SB 225 DO PASS

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 11:03 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Steve Henson 41st, Secretary

/s/ Debra Charnote, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the
Senate Government Oversight Committee
March 18, 2009**

A meeting of the Senate Government Oversight Committee was held on March 18, 2009 in Room 450 of the Capitol. Chairman Unterman called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m. Members present included Senators Chance of the 16th, Henson of the 41st, Buckner of the 44th, Goggans of the 7th, Grant of the 25th, Harp of the 29th, Heath of the 31st, Mullis of the 53rd, Tarver of the 22nd, and Thomas of the 54th.

NOTE: Senators Buckner, Chance and Tarver arrived at 3:10 p.m.
Senators Goggans, Grant and Henson arrived at 3:15 p.m.

HB 108 (Bryant, 160th) *Ralph Mark Gilbert Civil Rights Museum; official state civil rights museum; provide*

Representative Bryant presented the bill. This bill designates the Ralph Mark Gilbert Civil Rights Museum in Savannah as the official Georgia historical civil rights museum. Rep. Bryant explained that this museum is in Savannah's historic district and details the civil rights history of Savannah and the State of Georgia. Senator Heath asked whether this designation would have any cost, and Rep. Bryant said it would not. Senator Lester Jackson is the Senate sponsor of the bill.

Senator Henson moved that **HB 108 Do Pass**, and Senator Tarver seconded. The bill passed unanimously.

HB 108 DO PASS

SB 143 (Brown, 26th) *Public Meetings; limitation on action to contest agency action, recording, notice of time/place; change certain provisions*

Senator Brown presented the bill. Under this legislation, relating to open and public meetings, so as to change certain provisions relating to meetings to be open to the public, limitation on action to contest agency action, recording, notice of time and place, access to minutes, and telecommunications conferences; to change certain provisions relating to excluded proceedings; to provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Chairman Unterman said the committee would need to hear from the ACCG and GMA before the committee would bring it for a vote.

NOTE: Senators Heath and Mullis left at 3:26 p.m.

HB 228 (Butler, 18th) *State health and human services agencies; reorganize and reestablish; provisions*

Senator Grant presented the bill. This legislation reorganizes the state's health and human services agencies, establishing three new departments: the Department of Health, the Department of Human Services, and the Department of Behavioral Health. The bill also reassigns functions currently performed by the Department of Community Health and Department of Human Resources to these new entities. The Department of Health (DOH) is to perform all duties and undertake all functions previously performed by the Department of Community Health (DCH), the Division of Public Health of the Department of Human Resources (DHR), and the Office of Regulatory Services of DHR, unless otherwise specified. The Department of Human Services (DHS) is to assume all powers, functions, and duties previously handled by DHR, except for those relating to the Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Addictive Diseases, the Division of Public Health, and the Office of Regulatory Services, unless otherwise specified. Finally, the Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) is to assume all powers, functions, and duties previously handled by DHR's Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Addictive Diseases.

The version of this bill that was passed by the House had a different organizational scheme than the substitute before the committee. This substitute is largely the same text as SB 222, which was passed by the Senate last week, with a few very minor modifications. Kim Raymond of the Senior Citizens Advocacy Project and Pat Nobbie of the Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities both expressed support, but they each had questions about the As Passed House version and were unsure if they were addressed by the substitute. Chairman Unterman advised them to put their concerns in writing, which could be addressed when the time comes for a conference committee.

Senator Grant suggested a minor change to the substitute by removing the requirement for the DBH to consult with DHS on creating a separate regional mental health, developmental disabilities, and addictive diseases planning board for regional offices. This language was largely an oversight in the process of preparing this substitute, and the amendment was unanimously agreed to by the Committee. This change was incorporated into a new substitute. Senator Unterman is the Senate sponsor.

Senator Grant moved that **HB 228 Do Pass by Substitute**, and Senator Harp seconded. The bill passed unanimously.

HB 228 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 3:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Steve Henson 41st, Secretary

/s/ Debra Charnote, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the
Senate Government Oversight Committee
March 25, 2009**

A meeting of the Senate Government Oversight Committee was held on March 25, 2009 in the Senate Mezzanine Room of the Capitol. Chairman Unterman called the meeting to order at 3:40 p.m. Members present included Senators Chance of the 16th, Henson of the 41st, Golden of the 8th, Grant of the 25th, Harp of the 29th, Tarver of the 22nd, and Thomas of the 54th.

HB 385 (Hill, 180th) **State Commission on Family Violence; date which commission shall cease to exist; repeal**

Chairman Unterman presented the bill. This bill amends Article 3 of Chapter 13 of Title 19 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to State Commission on Family Violence, so as to repeal the date on which the commission shall cease to exist; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes. Chairman Unterman is to be the Senate sponsor.

In support of the bill were Sgt. Jay Eisner of the DeKalb County Police, Judge Clarence F. Seeliger of DeKalb County Superior Court, Paulding County Battered Women's Crisis Center, Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and Nicole Lesser of the Fulton County District Attorney's Office.

Senator Harp moved that **HB 385 Do Pass**, and Senator Grant seconded. The bill passed unanimously.

HB 385 DO PASS

HB 171 (Manning, 32nd) **Public records; exemptions to requirements for disclosure; provisions**

Senator Stoner presented the bill. This bill provides that e-mail addresses and information collected by local governments in connection with neighborhood watch or public safety notification programs are not subject to public disclosure under the Open Records Act. Senator Stoner said this legislation was inspired by a situation in his county in which a city commissioner and a commercial entity requested contact information collected pursuant to a neighborhood watch program, and proceeded to send political and commercial SPAM to the collected e-mail addresses. Allowing such information to be disclosed discourages cooperation with the police. Senator Stoner will be the Senate sponsor of the bill. In support of the bill was the ACCG.

Senator Chance moved that **HB 171 Do Pass**, and Senator Golden seconded. The bill passed unanimously.

HB 171 DO PASS

HB 310 (Gardner, 57th) **State-wide recycling program; expand; provisions**

Representative Gardner presented the bill. This bill provides that the state-wide recycling program for state agencies is to include steel cans, plastic and glass bottles, and all grades of paper, including cardboard. The bill also states that the General Assembly finds that it is in the best interests of the state to encourage recycling and that state agencies can contribute in a meaningful way.

Rep. Gardner explained these provisions do not really mandate anything but do encourage recycling. Senator Harp noted what may be a grammatical problem with the bill: as the bill strikes a current comma, it is not clear if the revised provision is supposed to cover aluminum or just aluminum cans. Nonetheless, the Committee did not move to amend this language. Senator Tolleson is the Senate sponsor of the bill.

Senator Henson moved that **HB 310 Do Pass**, and Senator Thomas seconded. The bill passed unanimously.

HB 310 DO PASS

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 3:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Steve Henson 41st, Secretary

/s/ Debra Charnote, Recording Secretary

September 3, 2009

Honorable Bob Ewing
Secretary of the Senate
State Capitol
Room 353
Atlanta, GA 30334

Dear Mr. Ewing:

Along with the minutes of the **Senate Government Oversight Committee**, I am returning the following Bills and Resolutions:

[SB 29](#)

[SB 143](#)

[SB 230](#)

[SR 520](#)

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Debra Charnote
Recording Secretary
Senate Government Oversight Committee