

## 2011 – 2012 INSURANCE & LABOR COMMITTEE ROSTER

Senator Greg Goggans, 7<sup>th</sup>  
*Chairman*  
1300 Hampton Road  
Douglas, GA 31533

Senator David Shafer, 48<sup>th</sup>  
*Vice Chairman*  
P. O. Box 880  
Duluth, GA 30096

Senator Tim Golden, 8<sup>th</sup>  
*Secretary*  
110 Beacon Hill  
Valdosta, GA 31602

Senator Don Balfour, 9<sup>th</sup>  
2312 Waterscape Trail  
Snellville, GA 30078

Senator Charlie Bethel, 54<sup>th</sup>  
170 Briarcliff Circle  
Dalton, Ga 30720

Senator Hardie Davis, 22<sup>nd</sup>  
P. O. Box 6389  
Augusta, GA 30916

Senator Jack Murphy, 27<sup>th</sup>  
3830 Adams Rd.  
Cumming, GA 30041

Senator Ronald Ramsey, Sr., 43<sup>rd</sup>  
5271 Snapfinger Woods Drive  
Decatur, GA 30035

Senator Chip Rogers, 21<sup>st</sup>  
P. O. Box 813  
Woodstock, GA 30188

Senator Ed Harbison, 15<sup>th</sup>  
Ex-Officio  
P.O. Box 1292  
Columbus, GA 31902

Senator Judson Hill, 32<sup>nd</sup>  
Ex-Officio  
3102 Raines Court  
Marietta, GA 30062

Senator Josh McKoon, 29<sup>th</sup>  
Ex-Officio  
P. O. Box 2565  
Columbus, GA 31902

## **INSURANCE & LABOR COMMITTEE**

### **2011 – 2012 RULES**

1. These Committee Rules of Operation shall be consistent with Senate Rule 2-1.5 (d) regarding the establishment of Rules of Operation.
2. Quorum of the Committee shall be five (5) members.
3. The chairman shall determine which bills and 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.
5. The Committee shall convene, recess, and adjourn upon the order of the Chairman.
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, setting forth succinctly the reasons for their dissent.
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 he designates to do so. In the event that more than one member of the General Assembly has signed a measure, the principal author shall be the one whose name appeared first in the list of authors.
9. The Chairman reserves the right to delay action on substitutes and amendments not provided to the Chairman at least 24 hours prior to the hearing.
10. Where these rules are silent on a specific issue, the Rules of the Senate, as adopted, shall govern. (Senate Rule 2-1.5 (d)).

Minutes of the  
Senate Insurance & Labor Committee  
January 25, 2011

The Senate Insurance & Labor Committee met on Tuesday, January 25, 2011 in Room 450 of the Capitol. Chairman Goggans called the meeting to order at 3:00p.m.

The following Senators were present:

Goggans (7<sup>th</sup>) Chairman  
Golden (8<sup>th</sup>) Secretary  
Bethel (54<sup>th</sup>)  
Balfour (9<sup>th</sup>)  
Harbison (15<sup>th</sup>)  
Ramsey (43<sup>rd</sup>)  
Rogers (21<sup>st</sup>)

Chairman Goggans welcomed the members to the Committee and asked for a motion to adopt the Rules for 2011 – 2012. Senator Rogers made a motion to adopt the Rules. Senator Harbison seconded the motion and the Rules were unanimously adopted.

Meeting adjourned at 3:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Tim Golden, 8<sup>th</sup>  
Secretary

/s/Betty Conner  
Recording Secretary

Minutes of the  
Senate Insurance & Labor Committee  
February 10, 2011

The Senate Insurance & Labor Committee met on Thursday, February 10, 2011 in the MEZZ of the Capitol. Chairman Goggans called the meeting to order at 2:15 p.m.

Senators present were:  
Goggans (7<sup>th</sup>) Chairman  
Shafer (48<sup>th</sup>) Vice Chairman  
Golden (8<sup>th</sup>) Secretary  
Bethel (54<sup>th</sup>)  
Balfour (9<sup>th</sup>)  
Harbison (15<sup>th</sup>)  
Hill (32<sup>nd</sup>)  
McKoon (29<sup>th</sup>)  
Murphy (27<sup>th</sup>)  
Ramsey (43<sup>rd</sup>)  
Rogers (21<sup>st</sup>)

**SB 17 (Sen. Golden, 8<sup>th</sup>) - Substitute - Insurance; establish the Special Advisory Commission on Mandated Health Insurance Benefits; membership, terms, meetings and duties**

Senator Golden explained his substitute (LC 37 1148S) and Chairman Goggans asked if anyone in attendance wanted to speak. David Raynor, representing the Georgia Chamber of Commerce, said that the bill had their support and he asked for favorable consideration.

Chairman Goggans asked for a motion and Senator Murphy made a motion that **SB 17 pass by substitute** and Senator McKoon seconded the motion. SB 17 passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Tim Golden, 8<sup>th</sup>  
Secretary

/s/ Betty Conner  
Recording Secretary

Minutes of the  
Senate Insurance & Labor Committee  
March 3, 2011

The Senate Insurance & Labor Committee met on Thursday, March 3, 2011 in the MEZZ of the Capitol. Chairman Goggans called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. and welcomed the new Commissioner of Labor, Mark Butler.

The following Senators were present:

Goggans (7<sup>th</sup>) Chairman  
Shafer (48<sup>th</sup>) Vice Chairman  
Golden (8<sup>th</sup>) Secretary  
Bethel (54<sup>th</sup>)  
McKoon (29<sup>th</sup>)  
Murphy (27<sup>th</sup>)  
Ramsey (43<sup>rd</sup>)  
Rogers (21<sup>st</sup>)

**SB 151 (Sen. Golden, 8<sup>th</sup>) State-wide Reserve Ratio; extend suspension of adjustments; provide for increase in the overall rate**

Senator Balfour arrived at 1:07 p.m.

Those speaking in favor of SB 151 were:

Ray Bowen, GA Trade Association  
Kyle Jackson, NFIB

Senator Harbison arrived at 1:12 p.m.

Senator Davis arrived at 1:13 p.m.

Elizabeth Appley with League of Women Voters spoke against SB 151.

Chairman Goggans asked for a motion and Senator Balfour made a motion that **SB 151 do pass**. Senator Rogers seconded the motion and SB 151 passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Tim Golden, 8<sup>th</sup>  
Secretary

/s/ Betty Conner  
Recording Secretary

Minutes of the  
Senate Insurance & Labor Committee  
March 9, 2011

The Senate Insurance & Labor Committee met on Wednesday, March 9, 2011 in the MEZZ of the Capitol. Chairman Goggans called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m.

Senators present:

Goggans (7<sup>th</sup>) Chairman  
Golden (8<sup>th</sup>) Secretary  
Bethel (54<sup>th</sup>)  
Hill (32<sup>nd</sup>)  
Murphy (27<sup>th</sup>)  
Rogers (21<sup>st</sup>)

**SB 167 (Sen. Hill, 4<sup>th</sup>) - Substitute - **Employment Security; any such benefit shall be reduced by a benefit received from a public retirement system****

Senator Harbison and Senator Ramsey arrived at 4:20 p.m.

Elizabeth Appley with the League of Women Voters spoke against the bill.

Senator Rogers made a motion that **SB 167 do pass by substitute**. Senator Golden seconded the motion and SB 167 passed unanimously.

**SB 177 (Sen. Bethel, 54<sup>th</sup>) Health Care Compact; adopt**

Senator Ramsey left at 4:55 p.m.

Senator Rogers made a motion that **SB 177 do pass**. Senator Murphy seconded the motion and SB 177 passed with 4 yeas and Senator Davis voting nay.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Golden, 8<sup>th</sup>  
Secretary

/s/ Betty Conner  
Recording Secretary

Minutes of the  
Senate Insurance & Labor Committee  
March 11, 2011

The Senate Insurance & Labor Committee met on Friday, March 11, 2011 in Room 125 of the Capitol. Chairman Goggans called the meeting to order at 11:07 a.m.

Senators present:

Goggans (7<sup>th</sup>) Chairman  
Golden (8<sup>th</sup>) Secretary  
Bethel (54<sup>th</sup>)  
Harbison (15<sup>th</sup>)  
McKoon (29<sup>th</sup>)  
Murphy (27<sup>th</sup>)  
Rogers (21<sup>st</sup>)  
Shafer (48<sup>th</sup>)

**SB 166 (Sen. Stone, 23<sup>rd</sup>) Insurance; extensively revise the requirements for continuing care providers/facilities**

Senator Davis arrived at 11:11 a.m.

Senator Balfour arrived at 11:15 a.m.

Ron Jackson stated that the Commissioner of Insurance said that he supports this legislation.

Senator Golden made a motion that **SB 166 do pass** and Senator Harbison seconded the motion. SB 166 passed unanimously.

**SB 199 (Sen. Shafer, 48<sup>th</sup>) Insurance; Commissioner shall have authority to impose penalties; licensed under Title 33; certain violations**

Those in support of this bill:

Graham Thompson, GA Association of Health Plans  
Stacy Freeman, American Health Insurance Plans

Senator Murphy made a motion that **SB 199 do pass** and Senator Golden seconded the motion. SB 199 passed unanimously.

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**SB 251 (Sen. Shafer, 48<sup>th</sup>) Insurance; transition from an annual renewal to a biennial renewal of licenses; agents, counselors, adjusters; adjustment of licensing fees**

Senator Rogers made a motion that **SB 251 do pass** and Senator Murphy seconded the motion. SB 251 passed unanimously.

**SB 252 (Sen. Shafer, 48<sup>th</sup>) Insurance; provide Commissioner shall determine if insurer meets the definition of a reinsurer**

Senator Murphy made a motion that **SB 252 do pass** and Senator Golden seconded the motion. SB 252 passed unanimously.

**SB 203 (Sen. Bethel, 54<sup>th</sup>) Insurance; certain individuals who collect/input data; automated claims; exempt**

Senator Harbison made a motion that **SB 203 do pass by substitute** and Senator Balfour seconded the motion. SB 203 passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 11:42 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Tim Golden, 8<sup>th</sup>  
Secretary

/s/ Betty Conner  
Recording Secretary

Minutes of the  
Senate Insurance & Labor Committee  
March 23, 2011

The Senate Insurance & Labor Committee met on Wednesday, March 23, 2011 in Room 125 of the Capitol. Chairman Goggans called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m.

Senators present:  
Goggans (7<sup>th</sup>) Chairman  
Golden (8<sup>th</sup>) Secretary  
Balfour (9<sup>th</sup>)  
Bethel (54<sup>th</sup>)  
Davis (22<sup>nd</sup>)  
Murphy (27<sup>th</sup>)

**HB 66 (Rep. Maxwell, 17<sup>th</sup>) Substitute - Insurance; certificate of insurance forms approved by commissioner; provide**

Senator Shafer arrived at 1:13 p.m.  
Senator McKoon arrived at 1:15 p.m.

Representative Maxwell explained the changes made for the substitute. He said that the Commissioner of Insurance approved these changes.

Senator Harbison arrived at 1:16 p.m.

Gould Hagler with Independent Insurance Agents spoke in favor of the bill.

After some discussion, Senator Golden made a motion that **HB 66 do pass by substitute** and Senator Davis seconded the motion. HB 66 passed unanimously.

**HB 189 (Rep. Wilkinson, 52<sup>nd</sup>) Noncovered Dental Services Act; enact**

Senator Rogers arrived at 1:20 p.m.  
Senator Ramsey arrived at 1:21 p.m.

Michael Shellnut with Humana spoke against the bill.

Martha Phillips with GA Dental Association spoke in favor of the bill.

After some discussion, the Chairman then asked for the pleasure of the Committee. Senator Balfour made a motion that **HB 189 do pass** and Senator Harbison seconded the motion. HB 189 passed unanimously.

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Insurance and Labor Committee Meeting  
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**HB 292 (Rep. Hembree, 67<sup>th</sup>) Employment security; extend rates and credits; change certain provisions**

Elizabeth Appley with the League of Women Voters spoke against the bill.

Kyle Jackson with NFIB spoke in favor of the bill.

Senator Golden made a motion that **HB 292 do pass** and Senator Bethel seconded the motion. HB 292 passed with a vote of 7 yeas with Senator Davis, Senator Harbison and Senator Ramsey voting nay.

Meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Golden, 8<sup>th</sup>  
Secretary

/s/ Betty Conner  
Recording Secretary

Minutes of the  
Senate Insurance & Labor Committee  
March 29, 2011

The Senate Insurance & Labor Committee met on Tuesday, March 29, 2011 in the MEZZ of the Capitol. Chairman Goggans called the meeting to order at 3:12 p.m.

Senators present:

Goggans (7<sup>th</sup>) Chairman  
Golden (8<sup>th</sup>) Secretary  
Bethel (54<sup>th</sup>)  
Davis (22<sup>nd</sup>)  
Harbison (15<sup>th</sup>)  
Hill (32<sup>nd</sup>)

**HB 413 (Rep. Golick, 34<sup>th</sup>) Substitute - Surplus line insurance; revise law**

Senator Davis left at 3:13 p.m. and returned at 3:15 p.m.

After some questions and discussion, Senator Davis made a motion that **HB 413 do pass by substitute** and Senator Harbison seconded the motion. HB 413 passed unanimously.

**HB 423 (Rep. Maxwell, 17<sup>th</sup>) Substitute - Unfair trade practices; certain residential contractors insurance claims; violations; provide**

Representative Maxwell said that the Governor's Office of Consumer Affairs worked with him on the bill.

After some questions, the Chairman asked for the pleasure of the Committee. Senator Harbison made a motion that **HB 423 do pass by substitute** and Senator Davis seconded the motion. HB 423 passed unanimously.

**HB 370 (Rep. Maxwell, 17<sup>th</sup>) Risk-based capital levels; trend test property and casualty companies; require**

Ron Jackson with the Insurance Commissioner's office spoke in favor of the bill.

The Chairman asked if anyone wanted to make a comment and there being none, Senator Hill, 32<sup>nd</sup>, made a motion that **HB 370 do pass** and Senator Harbison seconded the motion. HB 370 passed unanimously.

**HB 371 (Rep. Maxwell, 17<sup>th</sup>) Insurable interest; state entity; not fund life insurance on public officers or employees; provide**

Senator Balfour arrived at 3:30 p.m.

Senator Shafer arrived at 3:32 p.m.

Senator Golden made a motion that **HB 371 do pass** and Senator Hill, 32<sup>nd</sup>, seconded the motion. HB 371 passed unanimously.

**HB 477 (Rep. Shaw, 176<sup>th</sup>) Insurance; transition from annual to biennial license renewal; provide**

Representative Shaw explained his legislation and Senator Davis made a motion that **HB 477 do pass**. Senator Golden seconded the motion and HB 477 passed unanimously.

**HB 347 (Rep. Hembree, 67<sup>th</sup>) Substitute - Applicant examination; Commissioner not exempt self from written exams; provide**

Senator Davis left a 3:43 p.m.

Senator Harbison made a motion that **HB 347 do pass by substitute**. Senator Golden seconded the motion and HB 347 passed unanimously.

**HB 341 (Rep. Rogers, 26<sup>th</sup>) Insurers; limited purpose subsidiary life insurance companies; establish**

Representative Rogers said that the Insurance Commissioner, Ralph Hudgens, helped to draft this legislation.

Senator Golden made a motion that **HB 341 do pass** and Senator Harbison seconded the motion. HB 341 passed unanimously.

Senator Harbison left at 3:47 p.m.

**HB 461 (Rep. Jasperse, 12<sup>th</sup>) Health Care Compact; adopt**

Senator Shafer left at 3:40 p.m.

Senator Bethel made a motion that **HB 461 do pass** and Senator Golden seconded the motion. HB 461 passed unanimously.

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Meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Golden, 8<sup>th</sup>  
Secretary

/s/ Betty Conner  
Recording Secretary

Senator Tommie Williams  
District 19  
321 State Capitol  
Atlanta, GA 30334

**Committees:**

Finance  
Appropriations  
Reapp. and Redistricting  
Reg. Industries and Utilities  
Rules  
Education and Youth  
State Institutions and Property

The State Senate  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334  
**PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE**

April 11, 2011

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

Dear Bob:

In accordance with senate rules, the Committee on Assignments has appointed Senator Butch Miller and Senator John Albers to serve as Ex-Officio members for the Senate Insurance Committee meeting on April 11, 2011. These appointments shall expire upon the adjournment of the committee meeting. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns on this matter.

Sincerely,

/s/ Tommie Williams  
Senate President Pro Tempore

Minutes of the  
Senate Insurance & Labor Committee  
April 11, 2011

The Senate Insurance & Labor Committee met on Monday, April 11, 2011 in Room 125 of the Capitol. Chairman Goggans called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m.

Senators present

Goggans (7<sup>th</sup>) Chairman  
Bethel (54<sup>th</sup>)  
Murphy (27<sup>th</sup>)

**HB 248 (Rep. Neal, 1<sup>st</sup>) Substitute - Health Care Sharing Ministries Freedom to Share Act; enact**

Senator John Albers and Senator Butch Miller arrived at 8:45 a.m. (They were approved by Senator Tommie Williams to be ex-officio's for this meeting.)

Senator Harbison arrived at 8:46 a.m.

Senator Harbison left at 9:00 a.m.

Senator Bethel made a motion that **HB 248 do pass by substitute** and Senator Miller seconded the motion. HB 248 passed unanimously.

**HB 47 (Rep. Ramsey, 72<sup>nd</sup>) Substitute - Health insurance; offer accident and sickness policies approved in other states; authorize**

Speaking for the bill:

GA Chamber of Commerce  
GA Chiropractors Association  
NFIB

Speaking against the bill:

AARP  
GA Breast Cancer Association  
GA Pediatrics Association  
GA Women for Change  
Georgians for a Healthy Future  
League of Women Voters  
Dr. John Hill representing OB-GYNs

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Chairman Goggans asked Senator Bethel to offer his amendment to change "*has been*" on line 29 to "*is currently*". Senator Albers seconded the motion and the amendment passed unanimously.

Chairman Goggans recognized Aubry Villines (GA Chiropractor Association and the GA Optometric Association) to present his amendment deleting "." at the end of line 70 and inserting the following: *, and provide that no class of providers shall be promoted or recommended to the detriment of any other class of providers.*

Chairman Goggans asked for a motion on the amendment and Senator Bethel made the motion to adopt the amendment. Senator Albers seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Chairman Goggans then asked for a motion on the bill. Senator Bethel made a motion that **HB 47 do pass as amended** and Senator Albers seconded the motion. HB 47 passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Goggans, 7<sup>th</sup>  
Chairman

/s/ Betty Conner  
Recording Secretary

June 1, 2011

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

Dear Mr. Ewing:

Please find listed below the bills remaining in the Senate Insurance and Labor Committee for the 2011 Legislative Session:

[SB 6](#)

[SB 7](#)

[SB 29](#)

[SB 42](#)

[SB 158](#)

[SB 192](#)

[SB 278](#)

[SR 24](#)

Sincerely,

/s/ Betty Conner  
Recording Secretary  
Senate Insurance and Labor Committee