

2011 – 2012 INSURANCE & LABOR COMMITTEE ROSTER

Senator Greg Goggans, 7th
Chairman
1300 Hampton Road
Douglas, GA 31533
404.463.5263

Senator David Shafer, 48th
Vice Chairman
P. O. Box 880
Duluth, GA 30096
404.656.5048

Senator Tim Golden, 8th
Secretary
110 Beacon Hill
Valdosta, GA 31602
404.656.7580

Senator Don Balfour, 9th
2312 Waterscape Trail
Snellville, GA 30078
404.656.0095

Senator Charlie Bethel, 54th
170 Briarcliff Circle
Dalton, GA 30720
404.656.6436

Senator Hardie Davis, 22nd
P. O. Box 6389
Augusta, GA 30916
404.656.0340

Senator Ed Harbison, 15th
Ex-Officio
P.O. Box 1292
Columbus, GA 31902
404.656.0074

Senator Judson Hill, 32nd
Ex-Officio
3102 Raines Court
Marietta, GA 30062
404.656.0150

Senator Josh McKoon, 29th
Ex-Officio
P. O. Box 2565
Columbus, GA
404.463.3931

Senator Jack Murphy, 27th
3830 Adams Rd.
Cumming, GA 30041
404.656.7127

Senator Ron Ramsey, 43rd
5271 Snapfinger Woods Drive
Decatur, GA 30035
404.463.2598

Senator Chip Rogers, 21st
P.O. Box 813
Woodstock, GA 30188
404.463.1378

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 24, 2012

The Senate Insurance and Labor Committee met on Tuesday, January 24, 2012 in the MEZZ of the Capitol. Chairman Goggans called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

Senators present were:

Goggans (7th) Chairman
Bethel (54th)
Davis (22nd)
Harbison (15th) Ex-Officio
Murphy (27th)

Chairman Goggans welcomed the Committee and introduced Commissioner Ralph Hudgens and asked if he would like to say a few words.

Senator Golden arrived at 4:07 p.m.
Senator Balfour arrived at 4:10 p.m.

[HB 477](#) (Rep. Shaw, 176th) Substitute - Insurance; transition from annual to biennial license renewal; provide

Representative Shaw explained his bill and said that there was a change that had to be made on Page 3 line 91 after last to delete the word "date" and change to "day".

Senator Harbison made a motion to amend the substitute and Senator Davis seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Senator Golden made a motion that the substitute pass as amended and Senator Harbison seconded the motion. Senator Harbison made a motion that [HB 477](#) **do pass by substitute** and Senator Murphy seconded the motion. HB 477 passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 4:15p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/Senator Tim Golden, 8th, Secretary

/s/Betty Conner, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the
Senate Insurance & Labor Committee
January 31, 2012

The Senate Insurance and Labor Committee met on Tuesday, January 31, 2012 in the MEZZ of the Capitol. Chairman Goggans called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

Senators present were:

Goggans (7th) Chairman
Shafer (48th) Vice Chairman
Golden (8th) Secretary
Bethel (54th)
Davis (22nd)
Harbison (15th) Ex-Officio
McKoon (29th) Ex-Officio
Ramsey (43rd)

SB 331 (Sen. Shafer, 48th) Insurance; closing protection letters; provide for premiums; authorize Commissioner of Insurance to promulgate rules and regulations

Senator Shafer presented his bill and Senator Harbison made a motion that **SB 331 do pass**. Senator Golden seconded the motion and SB 331 passed unanimously.

SB 337 (Sen. Goggans, 7th) Insurance; limitations on licensure requirements for certain health care providers

Senator Goggans presented his bill and Senator Bethel made a motion that **SB 337 do pass**. Senator Davis seconded the motion and SB 337 passed unanimously.

Senator Murphy arrived just as we adjourned.

Meeting adjourned at 4:10p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/Senator Tim Golden, 8th Secretary

/s/Betty Conner, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the
Senate Insurance & Labor Committee
February 2, 2012

The Senate Insurance and Labor Committee met on Thursday, February 2, 2012 in the MEZZ of the Capitol. Chairman Goggans called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m.

Senators present were:

Goggans (7th) Chairman
Shafer (48th) Vice Chairman
Golden (8th) Secretary
Balfour (9th)
Ramsey (43rd)

Representative Maxwell said that he was removing HB 370 from the agenda.

[HB 371](#) (Rep. Maxwell, 17th) Substitute - Insurable interest; state entity; not fund life insurance on public officers or employees; provide

Representative Maxwell explained that this legislation passed last session but did not make it to the floor for a vote.

Senator Golden made a motion that [HB 371](#) **do pass by substitute**. Senator Ramsey seconded the motion and HB 371 passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 1:10p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/Senator Tim Golden, 8th
Secretary

/s/Betty Conner
Recording Secretary

Minutes of the
Senate Insurance & Labor Committee
February 9, 2012

The Senate Insurance and Labor Committee met on Thursday, February 9, 2012 in the MEZZ of the Capitol. Chairman Goggans called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

Senators present were:

Goggans (7th) Chairman
Shafer (48th) Vice Chairman
Golden (8th) Secretary
Davis (22nd)
McKoon (29th) Ex-Officio

SB 385 (Sen. Shafer, 48th) Substitute - Insurance Commissioner; provide for confidentiality of certain records; exceptions; premium taxes and rate; manner of collection

Senator Harbison arrived at 1:05 p.m.

Those speaking for the bill:

Don Roof and Jay Florence from the Department of Insurance

Senator Davis made a motion that **SB 385 do pass by substitute**. Senator Harbison seconded the motion and SB 385 passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 1:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Tim Golden, 8th
Secretary

/s/ Betty Conner
Recording Secretary

Minutes of the
Senate Insurance & Labor Committee
February 21, 2012

The Senate Insurance and Labor Committee met on Tuesday, February 21, 2012 in the MEZZ. Chairman Goggans called the meeting to order at 4:00p.m.

Senators present were:

Goggans (7th) Chairman
Golden (8th) Secretary
Balfour (9th)
Bethel (54th)
Davis (22nd)
Harbison (15th) Ex-Officio
Hill (32nd) Ex-Officio
Murphy (27th)
Ramsey (43rd)
Rogers (21st)

SB 447 (Sen. Millar, 40th) Employment Security; unemployment compensation; prov.; change the amount of taxable wages; determination of weekly benefit amount; provisions

Those speaking for the bill:

Roy Bowen, Georgia Association of Manufacturers
Kyle Jackson, NFIVS
David Rayner, Georgia Chamber

Those speaking against the bill:

Claire Richie, GBPI
Margo Smythe--individual
Elizabeth Appley, AFL-CIO
Linda Lowe, Families First
Pamela Perkins, Interfaith Children's Movement
Senator Nan Orrock

Senators Davis, Harbison, and Ramsey left the meeting at 4:45 p.m.

After some discussion, Senator Golden made a motion that **SB 447 do pass**. Senator Bethel seconded the motion and SB 447 passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Golden, 8th, Secretary

/s/ Judy LaClair, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the
Senate Insurance & Labor Committee
February 28, 2012

The Senate Insurance and Labor Committee met on Tuesday, February 28, 2012 in the MEZZ of the Capitol. Chairman Goggans called the meeting to order at 4:06p.m.

Senators present were:

Goggans (7th) Chairman
Bethel (54th)
Davis (22nd)
Harbison (15th) Ex-Officio
Hill (32nd) Ex-Officio
McKoon (29th) Ex-Officio

Chairman Goggans told the Committee that Senator Albers requested to withdraw his bill, SB 294.

[SB 471](#) (Sen. Hill, 32nd) Insurance; authorize Insurance Commissioner to establish coalition of other states; alternative policy approval process for comprehensive major medical policies

Those speaking in favor of the bill:

Jay Florence – Insurance Commissioner’s Office
Aubrey Villines – Optometric Association and Chiropractic Association

Senator Golden and Senator Murphy arrived at 4:07 p.m.

Senator Shafer arrived at 4:10 p.m

After some discussion, Senator Bethel made a motion that [SB 471](#) **do pass**. Senator Harbison seconded the motion and SB 471 passed unanimously.

[HB 785](#) (Rep. Peake, 137th) Insurance; limitations on licensure requirements for certain health care providers; provide

Senator Davis made a motion that [HB 785](#) **do pass**. Senator Bethel seconded the motion and HB 785 passed unanimously.

[SB 434](#) (Sen. Hill, 32nd) "Federal Abortion Mandate Opt-out Act"; opt out of funding certain abortions through certain qualified health plans

Senator Hill presented a substitute LC 28 6204S and explained some changes.

Senator Murphy made a motion that [SB 434](#) **do pass by substitute**. Senator Judson Hill seconded the motion and SB 434 passed unanimously.

[SB 438](#) (Sen. Crane, 28th) State Employees' Health Insurance Plan; provide that no health insurance plan for employees of the state shall offer coverage for abortion services

Senator Crane explained his new substitute.

Senator Rogers arrived at 4:25 p.m.

Jesse Weathington from the Department of Community Health spoke in favor of the bill.

After some questions and discussion, Senator Judson Hill made a motion that [SB 438](#) **do pass by substitute**. Senator Rogers seconded the motion and SB 438 passed 8-1 with Senator Harbison voting nay.

[SB 503](#) (Sen. Golden, 8th) Life Insurance; provide for insurers to offer wellness endorsements or riders under certain circumstances

Senator Davis made a motion that [SB 503](#) **do pass**. Senator Judson Hill seconded the motion and SB 503 passed unanimously.

[SB 460](#) (Sen. McKoon, 29th) Insurance; provide a religious exception; requirement that every health benefit policy provide coverage for contraceptives

Senator Shafer made a motion that [SB 460](#) **do pass**. Senator Judson Hill seconded the motion and SB 460 passed unanimously.

[SB 450](#) (Sen. Shafer, 48th) Insurance; provide in event of dispute arising involving material not in English; the English version shall control the resolution of the dispute

Senator Shafer said he had wanted to offer an amendment to the bill and after hearing the change, the committee agreed.

Senator Murphy made a motion that **SB 450 do pass by substitute**. Senator Judson Hill seconded the motion and SB 450 passed unanimously.

SB 469 (Sen. Balfour, 9th) Labor; provide provisions prohibiting mass picketing shall apply to certain private residences

Senator Balfour presented a new substitute.

Those speaking against the bill:

Sandra Michaels, GA Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers
Charlie Fleming, President AFL-CIO
Elizabeth Appling, AFL-CIO
Connie Jackson, President Cobb Education Association
Calvin Rollins, President GA Association of Educators
Sean DeVetter, GA Association of Educators
Chuck Styles, International Brotherhood of Teamsters
Gloria Tatum, Grandmothers 4 Peace
Minnie Ruffin, Grandmothers 4 Peace

Senator Rogers left at 4:55 p.m. and returned at 5:15 p.m.
Senator Murphy left at 5:20 p.m.
Senator Judson Hill left at 5:22 p.m.

Those speaking for the bill:

David Raynor, GA Chamber of Commerce
Kyle Jackson, National Federation of Independent Business
Gould Hagler, Independent Insurance Agents of Georgia

Senator Rogers left at 5:26 p.m. and returned at 5:40 p.m.

Senator Bethel made a motion to amend the substitute by striking lines 129 through 131 and inserting "high and aggravated misdemeanor". Senator McKoon seconded the motion to amend the substitute.

Senator Bethel then made a motion that **SB 469 do pass by substitute**. Senator McKoon seconded the motion and SB 469 passed unanimously.

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Insurance & Labor Committee Meeting Minutes
February 28, 2012

Meeting adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Tim Golden, 8th
Secretary

/s/ Betty Conner
Recording Secretary

Minutes of the
Senate Insurance & Labor Committee
March 12, 2012

The Senate Insurance and Labor Committee met on Monday, March 12, 2012 in the MEZZ of the Capitol. Chairman Goggans called the meeting to order at 4:15p.m.

Senators present were:

Goggans (7th) Chairman
Shafer (48th) Vice Chairman
Bethel (54th)
Davis (22nd)
Harbison (15th) Ex-Officio
Murphy (27th)

[HB 820](#) (Rep. Maxwell, 17th) Guaranteed asset protection waivers; retail seller's requirements to insure waiver obligations; provide exception

Senator Murphy made a motion that [HB 820](#) do pass. Senator Bethel seconded the motion and HB 820 passed unanimously.

[HB 1166](#) (Rep. Atwood, 179th) Insurance; individual health insurance coverage to children through child-only health plans; provide

Senator Judson Hill arrived at 4:20 p.m.

Those speaking in favor of the bill:

Cindy Zeldin, Georgians for a healthy Future
Polly McKinney, Voices for Georgia's Children
Daniel Thompson, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta
Andy Lord, Diabetes Association

Senator Bethel made a motion that [HB 1166](#) do pass. Senator Murphy seconded the motion and HB 1166 passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Goggans, 7th, Chairman

/s/ Betty Conner, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the
Senate Insurance & Labor Committee
March 14, 2012

The Senate Insurance and Labor Committee met on Wednesday, March 14, 2012 in Room 125 of the Capitol. Chairman Goggans called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

Senators present were:

Goggans (7th) Chairman
Shafer (48th) Vice Chairman
Bethel (54th)
Davis (22nd)

[HB 786](#) (Rep. Hembree, 67th) Consumers' insurance advocate; not necessary to file insurance rate filings until appropriately funded; provide

Senator McKoon arrived at 1:40 p.m.

Senator Shafer made a motion that [HB 786](#) **do pass**. Senator Davis seconded the motion and HB 786 passed unanimously.

[HB 955](#) (Rep. Hembree, 67th) Georgia Life and Health Insurance Guaranty Association; provide comprehensive revision of the provisions

Senator Davis made a motion that [HB 955](#) **do pass**. Senator Shafer seconded the motion and HB 955 passed unanimously.

[HB 986](#) (Rep. Hembree, 67th) Insurance; dispute or complaint involving material not in English, the English version shall control the resolution; provide

Senator Bethel made a motion that [HB 986](#) **do pass**. Senator Shafer seconded the motion and HB986 passed unanimously.

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Insurance and Labor Committee
March 14, 2012

[HB 548](#) (Rep. Martin, 47th) Workers' compensation; parties to franchise agreement not considered employees; provide

Senator Bethel made a motion that [HB 548](#) **do pass**. Senator Davis seconded the motion and HB 548 passed unanimously.

Chairman Goggans told the committee that since Representative Dollar and Representative Martin had other meetings to attend that he would take up their bills at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Goggans, 7th
Chairman

/s/ Betty Conner
Recording Secretary

Minutes of the
Senate Insurance & Labor Committee
March 20, 2012

The Senate Insurance and Labor Committee met on Tuesday, March 20, 2012 in the MEZZ of the Capitol. Chairman Goggans called the meeting to order at 5:44 p.m.

Senators present were:

Goggans (7th) Chairman
Golden (8th) Secretary
Bethel (54th)
Davis (22nd)
Murphy (27th)

[HB 931](#) (Rep. Shaw, 176th) Insurance; state domestic farmers' mutual fire insurance companies; update provisions

Senator Bethel made a motion that [HB 931](#) **do pass**. Senator Golden seconded the motion and HB 931 passed unanimously.

Senator McKoon arrived at 5:55 p.m.

[HB 513](#) (Rep. Shaw, 176th) Life insurance; group life insurance policy to approved groups; allow issuance

Senator Shafer arrived at 6:07 p.m.

Senator Goggans asked Commissioner Hudgens of the Insurance Department if he wanted to speak to the bill. Commissioner Hudgens said that he was in favor of the bill and had no objections.

Senator Davis made a motion that [HB 513](#) **do pass**. Senator Golden seconded the motion and HB 513 passed unanimously.

[HB 463](#) (Rep. Dollar, 45th) Limited licenses; insurance coverage on self-service storage; provide

Jay Florence (Department of Insurance) spoke in favor of the bill.

Senator Harbison arrived at 6:14 p.m.

Senator Murphy made a motion that [HB 463](#) **do pass**. Senator Bethel seconded the motion and HB 463 passed unanimously.

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Insurance & Labor Committee
March 20, 2012

[HB 971](#) (Rep. Hembree, 67th) Substitute - Workers' compensation; awards and benefits; change certain provisions

There was some discussion about the bill between the committee members and Senator Bill Hamrick spoke in favor of the bill.

Senator Bethel made a motion that [HB 971](#) **do pass by substitute**. Senator Murphy seconded the motion and HB 971 passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Tim Golden, 8th
Secretary

/s/ Betty Conner
Recording Secretary

Minutes of the
Senate Insurance & Labor Committee
March 26, 2012

The Senate Insurance and Labor Committee met on Monday, March 26, 2012 in the MEZZ of the Capitol. Chairman Goggans called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

Senators present were:

Goggans (7th) Chairman
Shafer (48th) Vice Chairman
Golden (8th) Secretary
Bethel (54th)
McKoon (29th) Ex Officio

[HB 640](#) (Rep. Rogers, 26th) Insolvent insurers; claimants rights; correct certain language

After some discussion, Senator Shafer made a motion that [HB 640](#) **do pass**. Senator Bethel seconded the motion and HB 640 passed unanimously.

[HB 1067](#) (Rep. Rogers, 26th) Substitute - Portable electronics insurance; issuance and regulation of limited licenses to sell; provide for comprehensive revision of provisions

After some discussion, Senator Bethel made a motion that [HB 1067](#) **do pass by substitute**. Senator Golden seconded the motion and HB 1067 passed unanimously.

[HB 347](#) (Rep. Hembree, 67th) Applicant examination; Commissioner not exempt self from written exams; provide

Senator Bethel presented the bill for Representative Hembree and suggested some changes to the bill.

After some discussion, Chairman Goggans asked for the pleasure of the Committee and Senator Golden made a motion that [HB 347](#) **do pass by substitute**. Senator McKoon seconded the motion and HB 347 passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Tim Golden, 8th
Secretary

/s/ Betty Conner
Recording Secretary

June 1, 2012

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 2012 Legislative Session:

[HB 370](#)

[SB 6](#)

[SB 7](#)

[SB 29](#)

[SB42](#)

[SB 158](#)

[SB 167](#)

[SB192](#)

[SB 278](#)

[SB 294](#)

[SB 295](#)

[SB 297](#)

[SB 330](#)

[SB418](#)

[SB 472](#)

[SB 476](#)

[SB 536](#)

[SR 24](#)

Sincerely,

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