

**2016 SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**Senator Renee Unterman, Chairman**

District 45  
P.O. Box 508  
Buford, GA 30518

**Senator Chuck Hufstetler, Vice-Chairman**

District 52  
3 Orchard Spring Drive  
Rome, GA 30165

**Senator Fran Millar, Secretary**

District 40  
P.O. Box 88096  
Atlanta, GA 30356

**Senator Dean Burke**

District 11  
1500 East Shotwell Street  
Bainbridge, GA 39819

**Senator Gloria Butler**

District 55  
6241 Southland Trace  
Stone Mountain, GA 30087

**Senator Bill Cowsert**

District 46  
P.O. Box 512  
Athens, GA 30603

**Senator Steve Henson**

District 41  
2643 Sterling Acres Drive  
Tucker, GA 30084

**Senator Judson Hill**

District 32  
3102 Raines Court  
Marietta, GA 30062

**Senator Lester Jackson**

District 2  
121-F State Capitol  
Atlanta, GA 30334

**Senator Greg Kirk**

District 13  
P.O. Box 6085  
Americus, GA 31709

**Senator William T. Ligon, Jr.**

District 3  
158 Scranton Connector  
Brunswick, GA 31525

**Senator Nan Orrock**

District 36  
1070 Delaware Avenue SE  
Atlanta, GA 30316

**Senator David Shafer**

District 48  
P.O. Box 880  
Duluth, GA 30096

**Senator JaNice VanNess**

District 43  
2731 Pitlochry Street  
Conyers, GA 30094

**Senator Ben Watson**

District 1  
1326 Eisenhower Drive #2  
Savannah, GA 31406

## MINUTES OF SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

The Senate Committee on Health & Human Services met in Room 450 of the Capitol Building on Monday, January 27, 2016.

### MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sen. Renee Unterman (45th), Chairman  
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd), Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Fran Millar (40th), Secretary  
Sen. Dean Burke (11th)  
Sen. Gloria Butler (55th)  
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th)  
Sen. Judson Hill (32nd)  
Sen. Lester Jackson (2nd)  
Sen. William Ligon Jr. (3rd)  
Sen. Nan Orrock (36th)  
Sen. JaNice VanNess (43rd)  
Sen. Ben Watson (1st)

**NOTE:** Sen. Steve Henson (41st), Sen. David Shafer (48th), and Sen. Greg Kirk (13th) were absent.

Chairman Unterman (45th) called the meeting to order at 2:07 p.m. and presented the Committee Rules. Sen. Orrock (36th) made a motion that the Committee Rules **Do Pass**. Sen. Butler (55th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and a copy of the Rules is attached.

Chairman Unterman (45th) then appointed Senator VanNess (43rd) to the Subcommittees on Health Care Delivery and Pharmacology.

**SB 248, Sen. Valencia Seay (34th), Dental and Dental Hygienists; provide for the profession of dental hygiene therapy; licensure**

Sen. Seay (34th) presented the bill to the Committee.

No one spoke for or against the bill. The bill was presented as a **hearing only**.

**NOTE:** Sen. Millar (40th) left at 2:45 p.m.

**SB 273, Sen. Burke (11th), Clinical Laboratories; provide certain non-diagnostic laboratories not subject to state licensure as clinical laboratory**

Sen. Burke (11th) presented the bill to the Committee.

Sen. Watson (1st) made a motion SB 273 **Do Pass** and Sen. Orrock (36th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 10-0.

**SB 273 DO PASS**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Fran Millar (40th), Secretary

/s/ Avi'el Bland, Recording Secretary

## **Senate Committee on Health and Human Services Rules**

### **2015 -2016 Term**

- 1.** Quorum of the Committee shall be eight (8) members.
- 2.** The Chair shall determine which bills and resolutions are to be considered and the order in which said measures are considered. At the discretion of the chair, the order may change or be omitted.
- 3.** The Chair shall appoint Subcommittees with their appropriate Subcommittee Chairs.
- 4.** The Chair shall have the authority to refer bills and resolutions to Subcommittees for study. Such Subcommittees in turn shall have the authority to make recommendations on such measures to the full Committee with a report.
- 5.** The Committee shall convene, recess, put up all questions, and adjourn upon the order of the Chair.
- 6.** Any member or members of the Committee who disagree with the majority report of the Committee shall be privileged to file a minority report if they so desire within twenty-four (24) hours of said vote.
- 7.** A bill, resolution, or other matter will be considered only after a presentation by its principal author or a legislator whom he or the Chairman designates to do so. In the event more than one member of the General Assembly has signed a measure, the principal author shall be the one whose name appears first in the list of authors.
- 8.** Substitutes and amendments shall be provided to the Chairman at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the hearing. The Chairman reserves the right to delay action on any substitute or amendment not provided in advance.
- 9.** Where these rules are silent on a specific issue, the Rules of the Senate, as adopted, shall govern.

## MINUTES OF SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

The Senate Committee on Health & Human Services met in Room 450 of the Capitol Building on Monday, February 1, 2016.

### MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sen. Renee Unterman (45th), Chairman  
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd), Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Fran Millar (40th), Secretary  
Sen. Dean Burke (11th)  
Sen. Gloria Butler (55th)  
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th)  
Sen. Steve Henson (41st)  
Sen. Lester Jackson (2nd)  
Sen. Greg Kirk (13th)  
Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd)  
Sen. Nan Orrock (36th)  
Sen. JaNice VanNess (43rd)  
Sen. Ben Watson (1st)

**NOTE:** Sen. Judson Hill (32nd) and Sen. David Shafer (48th) were absent.

Chairman Unterman (45th) called the meeting to order at 3:08 p.m.

### **SB 230, Sen. Hufstetler (52nd), Uniform Emergency Volunteer Health Practitioners**

Sen. Hufstetler (52nd) presented the bill to the Committee.

Kathy Browning from Academy of Surgeons spoke in favor of the bill.

Sen. Hufstetler (52nd) made a motion to amend the bill and Sen. Butler (55th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 12-0. The amendment was adopted with the purpose of creating a new Committee substitute.

Sen. Orrock (36th) made a motion **SB 230 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 37 2104S)** and Sen. Kirk (13th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 12-0.

### **SB 230 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 37 2104S)**

**NOTE:** Sen. Shafer 48th arrived at 3:30 p.m.

### **SB 271, Sen. Burke (11th), Mental Health; provide reasonable standards for providing patients notice; admission to an emergency receiving facility**

Sen. Burke (11th) presented the bill to the Committee.

Frederick Bryant from Georgia Mental Health Consumer Network and Sarah Yoss from Mental Health America of Georgia spoke in favor of the bill.

Thomas Weaver spoke against the bill with constitutional concerns.

Chairman Unterman (45th) referred SB 271 and SB 248 to the Health Care Delivery Subcommittee chaired by Sen. Hufstetler (52nd). SB 115 was referred to the Pharmacology Subcommittee chaired by Sen. Watson (1st).

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Fran Millar (40th), Secretary

/s/ Avi'el Bland, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES  
AND THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION**

The Senate Committee on Health & Human Services and the Senate Committee on Higher Education met in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building on Wednesday, February 3, 2016.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Sen. Renee Unterman (45th), Chairman  
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd), Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Fran Millar (40th), Secretary  
Sen. Dean Burke (11th)  
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th)  
Sen. Lester Jackson (2nd)  
Sen. Greg Kirk (13th)  
Sen. Nan Orrock (36th)  
Sen. Ben Watson (1st)

**NOTE:** Sen. Gloria Butler (55th), Steve Henson (41st), Sen. Judson Hill (32nd), Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd), Sen. David Shafer, and Sen. JanNice VanNess (43rd) were absent.

Chairman Unterman (45th) called the meeting to order at 2:09 p.m. The Senate Higher Education Committee and Senate Health & Human Services Committee held a joint meeting.

The University System of Georgia presented on their system-wide campus safety initiative as recommended by the USG Campus Safety and Security Committee. The USG campus safety initiative centralizes the implementation and oversight of campus safety policies, procedures and requirements and mandates system-led training for institution faculty and staff and students.

Listed below is the agenda of how the meeting was presented:

-University System of Georgia - Chancellor Hank Huckaby

-University System of Georgia – Samuel Burch, Vice Chancellor for Legal Affairs

-Questions were asked by Committee members

Also, Jet Toney from Cornerstone Communications Group, Inc., Vernon Keenan from GBI and Ethan James from the Georgia Hospital Association each spoke on the issue.

With no further business, Chairman Unterman (45th) adjourned the meeting at 3:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Fran Millar (40th), Secretary

/s/ Avi'el Bland, Recording Secretary

## MINUTES OF SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

The Senate Committee on Health & Human Services met in Room 450 of the Capitol Building on Monday, February 8, 2016.

### MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sen. Renee Unterman (45th), Chairman  
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd), Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Fran Millar (40th), Secretary  
Sen. Dean Burke (11th)  
Sen. Gloria Butler (55th)  
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th)  
Sen. Judson Hill (32nd)  
Sen. Lester Jackson (2nd)  
Sen. Greg Kirk (13th)  
Sen. Nan Orrock (36th)  
Sen. David Shafer (48th)  
Sen. JaNice VanNess (43rd)  
Sen. Ben Watson (1st)

**NOTE:** Sen. Steve Henson (41st) and Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd) were absent.

Chairman Unterman (45th) called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

**SB 115, Sen. Hufstetler (52nd), Physician Assistants; authorize a physician to delegate to physician assistant the authority to prescribe Schedule II controlled substances**

Sen. Hufstetler (52nd) presented the bill to the Committee.

Sen. Hufstetler (52nd) made a motion SB 115 **Do Pass By Substitute (LC 37 2113S)** and Sen. VanNess (43rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 12-0.

**SB 115 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 37 2113S)**

**SB 248, Sen. Valencia Seay (34th), Dental and Dental Hygienists; provide for the profession of dental hygiene therapy; licensure**

Sen. Seay (34th) presented the bill to the Committee.

Sen. Hufstetler (52nd) presented the discussion from the Health & Human Services Health Care Delivery Subcommittee.

There was discussion amongst the committee members to amend parts of the bill before considering a motion.

Sen. Shafer (48th) offered that “Medicare” should be capitalized and the Committee unanimously agreed to this change.

Sen. Hill (32nd) moved that the term “licensed dentist” be amended in Lines 34, 58, and 74 so that it specify a “licensed dentist in the State of Georgia.” The Committee unanimously agreed to this change as well.

Sen. Hill (32nd) offered another change regarding the 90-day timeframe for which a patient is to see a dentist after seeing a dental hygienist with delegated authority at a safety net setting. He moved that this timeframe be changed to 45 days. The Committee unanimously agreed.

Sen. Hill (32nd) also added language to require any supervising licensed dentist to be within a 100 mile radius of any dental hygienist authorized to perform delegable services under this bill. The Committee unanimously agreed.

Sen. Kirk (13th) proposed an amendment that addressed the Committee’s concerns that the number of dental hygienists a dentist can delegate authority would be unlimited. He proposed that dentists be limited to authorizing no more than 8 dental hygienists to perform dentals hygiene duties as provided under this bill. The vote was 9-2, the yeas being Sen. Burke (11th), Sen. Butler (55th), Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Hill (32nd), Sen. Hufstetler (52nd), Sen. Kirk (13th), Sen. Orrock (36th), Sen. Shafer (48th), Sen. VanNess (43rd) and the nays being Sen. Millar (40th) and Sen. Watson (1st). Sen. Jackson (2nd) abstained from voting due to a conflict.

The amendments will be used to create a Senate substitute (LC 37 2122S).

Sen. Hufstetler (52nd) made a motion SB 248 **Do Pass By Substitute (LC 37 2122S)** and Sen. Butler (55th) seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-4 with Vice-Chairman Hufstetler (52nd), Sen. Burke (11th), Sen. Butler (55th), Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Kirk (13th), Sen. Orrock (36th), and Sen. VanNess (43rd) voting yea and Secretary Millar (40th), Sen. Hill (32nd), Sen. Shafer (48th) Sen. Watson (1st) voting nay. Sen. Jackson (2nd) abstained from voting, as he is a licensed dentist with a practice in Georgia.

**SB 248 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 37 2122S)**

**NOTE:** Sen. Millar (40th), Sen. Hill (32nd), and Sen. VanNess (43rd) left at 4:00 p.m.

**SB 242, Sen. Michael Williams (27th), Labor and Industrial Relations; allow employees to use sick leave for the care of immediate family members**

Sen. Williams (27th) presented the bill to Committee.

Karen Bremer from the Georgia Restaurant Association spoke in favor of the bill.

Kyle Jackson from the Georgia Chamber of Commerce spoke in opposition to the bill as it had currently been presented.

Sen. Kirk (13th) made a motion SB 242 **Do Pass** and Sen. Jackson (2nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-2 with Sen. Hufstetler (52nd), Sen. Burke (11th), Sen. Butler (55th), Sen. Kirk (13th), Sen. Jackson (2nd), Sen. Orrock (36th) and Sen. Watson (1st), voting in support of the bill and Sen. Cowsert (46th), and Sen. Shafer (48th) voting in opposition to the bill.

**SB 242 DO PASS**

**SB 271, Sen. Burke (11th), Mental Health; provide reasonable standards for providing patients notice; admission to an emergency receiving facility**

Sen. Burke (11th) presented the bill to Committee. Sen. Hufstetler (52nd) gave a report as to how the bill passed out of his Health & Human Services Health Care Delivery Subcommittee.

Sen. Watson (1st) made a motion SB 271 **Do Pass By Substitute (LC 37 2101S)** and Sen. Hufstetler (52nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed 8-1 with Vice-Chairman Hufstetler (52nd), Sen. Burke (11th), Sen. Butler (55th), Sen. Jackson (2nd), Sen. Kirk (13th), Sen. Orrock (36th), Sen. Shafer (48th), and Sen. Watson (1st) voting in support of the bill and Sen. Cowsert (46th) voting in opposition to the bill.

**SB 271 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 37 2101S)**

**SB 305, Sen. Unterman (45th) Health; Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment form; require department to provide certain notification prior to modification**

Sen. Unterman (45th) presented the bill to Committee.

Joshua Edmonds from Georgia Right to Life spoke in favor of the bill.

Sen. Shafer (48th), made a motion SB 305 **Do Pass** and Sen. Butler (55th), seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 9-0.

**SB 305 DO PASS**

**NOTE:** Sen. Watson (1st) left at 4:30 p.m.

**SB 314, Sen. Unterman (45th) Nurses; advanced nursing practices; revise certain provisions; provide for changes to roles and definitions**

Sen. Unterman (45th) presented the bill to Committee.

Brenda Rowe and Jim Cleshora from the Georgia Board of Nursing both spoke in favor of the bill.

Sen. Jackson (2nd) made a motion SB 314 **Do Pass** and Sen. Burke (11th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 8-0.

**SB 314 DO PASS**

**NOTE:** Sen. Butler (55th) left at 4:45 p.m.

**SB 308, Sen. Unterman (45th) Positive Alternatives for Pregnancy and Parenting Grant Program; establish; definitions; administration and duties**

Sen. Unterman (45th) presented the bill to Committee.

Emily Matson from Georgia Life Alliance, Jason Phillips from Atlanta Care Center, Tallie Moeltering from Beacon of Hope, and Joshua Edmonds from Georgia Right to Life each spoke in favor of the bill.

Sen. Shafer (48th), made a motion SB 308 **Do Pass By Substitute (LC 37 2121S)** and Sen. Cowsert (46th) seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-1 with Vice-Chairman Hufstetler (52nd), Sen. Burke (11th), Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Jackson (2nd), Sen. Kirk (13th) and Sen. Shafer (48th) voting in support of the bill and Sen. Orrock (36th), voting in opposition to the bill.

**SB 308 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 37 2121S)**

With no further business, Sen. Unterman adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Fran Millar (40th), Secretary

/s/ Avi'el Bland, Recording Secretary

## MINUTES OF SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

The Senate Committee on Health & Human Services met in Room 450 of the Capitol Building on Wednesday, February 10, 2016.

### MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sen. Renee Unterman (45th), Chairman  
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd), Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Fran Millar (40th), Secretary  
Sen. Dean Burke (11th)  
Sen. Gloria Butler (55th)  
Sen. Steve Henson (41st)  
Sen. Lester Jackson (2nd)  
Sen. Greg Kirk (13th)  
Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd)  
Sen. Nan Orrock (36th)  
Sen. JaNice VanNess (43rd)  
Sen. Ben Watson (1st)

**NOTE:** Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Sen. Judson Hill (32nd), and Sen. David Shafer (48th) were absent.

Chairman Unterman (45th) called the meeting to order at 2:08 p.m.

**[SB 337](#), Sen. Larry Walker (20th), Medical Assistance; require Department of Human Services to provide certain dependents of military service member; eligibility**

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

Sen. Watson (1st) made a motion to amend the bill and Sen. VanNess (43rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 11-0.

**NOTE:** Sen. Shafer (48th) arrived at 2:30 p.m.

Sen. Millar (40th) moved SB 337 **Do Pass By Substitute (LC 37 2128ERS)** and Sen. Burke (11th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 12-0.

**SB 337 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 37 2128ERS)**

**Note:** Sen. Shafer (48th) and Sen. Ligon Jr. (3rd) left at 3:30 p.m.

**[SB 319](#), Sen. Jackson (2nd), Professional Counseling; revise the definition**

Sen. Jackson (2nd) presented the bill to the Committee.

The following people spoke in favor the bill:

Dr. Tom Black from Savannah, GA  
Dr. Daniel Trussel of the Atlanta LPCA

The following people spoke in opposition to the bill:  
Daniel Rogers of Georgia Psychological Association  
Dr. Karen Starks of the NASW-LRSW  
Dr. William Buchanan of Johns Creek Private Practice  
Marcus Downs from MAG

Sen. Millar (40th) made a motion SB 319 **Do Pass** and Sen. Jackson (2nd) seconded the motion. The vote was 5-5. Chairman Unterman (45th) voted yea to break the tie. The motion passed 6-5. Chairman Unterman (45th), Sen. Burke (11th), Sen. Jackson (2nd), Sen. Kirk (13th), Sen. Millar (40th) and Sen. Watson (1st) voted yea. The nays were Vice-Chairman Hufstetler (52nd), Sen. Butler (55th), Sen. Henson (41st), Sen. Orrock (36th) and Sen. VanNess (43rd).

**SB 319 DO PASS**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Fran Millar (40th), Secretary

/s/ Avi'el Bland, Recording Secretary

## MINUTES OF SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

The Senate Committee on Health & Human Services met in Room 450 of the Capitol Building on Wednesday, February 17, 2016.

### MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sen. Renee Unterman (45th), Chairman  
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd), Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Fran Millar (40th), Secretary  
Sen. Dean Burke (11th)  
Sen. Gloria Butler (55th)  
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th)  
Sen. Lester Jackson (2nd)  
Sen. Greg Kirk (13th)  
Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd)  
Sen. Nan Orrock (36th)  
Sen. JaNice VanNess (43rd)  
Sen. Ben Watson (1st)

**NOTE** Sen. Steve Henson (41st), Sen. Judson Hill (32nd), and Sen. David Shafer (48th) were absent.

Chairman Unterman (45th) called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

**SB 368, Sen. Michael Rhett (33rd), Medical Assistance; eligible individuals to obtain health care coverage; provide program of premium assistance**

Sen. Rhett (33rd) presented the bill to the Committee.

Whitney Griggs of Georgians for a Healthier Future, Ethan James of Georgia Hospital Association, Marcus Downs of the Medical Association of Georgia, and Tim Sweeney of the Georgia Budget Policy Institute spoke in support of the bill.

There was further discussion on the bill by the Committee members and no motion was made. This was a **hearing only**.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Fran Millar (40th), Secretary

/s/ Avi'el Bland, Recording Secretary

## MINUTES OF SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

The Senate Committee on Health & Human Services met in Room 450 of the Capitol Building on Friday, February 19, 2016.

### MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sen. Renee Unterman (45th), Chairman  
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd), Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Fran Millar (40th), Secretary  
Sen. Dean Burke (11th)  
Sen. Gloria Butler (55th)  
Sen. Judson Hill (32nd)  
Sen. Lester Jackson (2nd)  
Sen. Greg Kirk (13th)  
Sen. Nan Orrock (36th)

**NOTE:** Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Sen. Steve Henson (41st), Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd), Sen. David Shafer (48th), Sen. JaNice VanNess (43rd) and Sen. Ben Watson (1st) were absent.

Chairman Unterman (45th) called the meeting to order at 4:26 p.m.

**SB 381, Sen. Bruce Thompson (14th), Non-embryonic and Non-fetal Cell Therapy Act; provide regulations for administration, compounding, and importation of certain cellular material**

Sen. Thompson (14th) presented the bill to the Committee.

Tim Ganey of the Atlanta Medical Center and Jack Cheng, a physician, spoke in support of the bill. Chuck Clay of Georgia Bio acknowledged the bill neutrally.

This was a **hearing only**.

**SB 382, Sen. Unterman (45th), Surprise Billing and Consumer Protection Act; provide for consumer protections regarding health insurance**

Sen. Unterman (45th), decided not to present the bill to the Committee today.

**NOTE:** Sen. JaNice VanNess (43rd) arrived at 5:17 p.m.

**SB 385, Sen. Hill (32nd), Physicians; provide for certain requirements for advertisement or publication of representation of board certification by physicians**

Sen. Hill (32nd) presented the bill to the Committee.

Joanne Thurston of Cobb Country Medical Society and Marcus Downs of Medical Association of Georgia spoke in support of the bill.

This was a **hearing only**.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Fran Millar (40th), Secretary

/s/ Avi'el Bland, Recording Secretary

## MINUTES OF SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

The Senate Committee on Health & Human Services met in Room 450 of the Capitol Building on Monday, February 22, 2016.

### MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sen. Renee Unterman (45th), Chairman  
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd), Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Fran Millar (40th), Secretary  
Sen. Dean Burke (11th)  
Sen. Gloria Butler (55th)  
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th)  
Sen. Steve Henson (41st)  
Sen. Judson Hill (32nd)  
Sen. Greg Kirk (13th)  
Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd)  
Sen. Nan Orrock (36th)  
Sen. Ben Watson (1st)

**NOTE:** Sen. Lester Jackson (2nd), Sen. David Shafer (48th), and Sen. JaNice VanNess (43rd) were absent.

Chairman Unterman (45th) called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

### **SB 382, Sen. Unterman (45th), Surprise Billing and Consumer Protection Act; provide for consumer protections regarding health insurance**

Sen. Unterman (45th) presented the bill to the Committee.

Graham Thompson of the Georgia Hospital Association, Keri Conley of the Georgia Hospital Association, Chip Pettigrew, M.D. of Georgia College of Emergency Physicians, Steve Walsh, M.D. of Georgia Society of Anesthesiologists, John Harvey, M.D. and Marcus Downs of Medical Association of Georgia acknowledged the bill.

Allan Hays of AHIP, Meredith Gonsahn of Georgians for a Healthy Future, and Beth Stephens of Georgia Watch spoke in support of the bill.

There was further discussion amongst the Committee members and the Chairman acknowledged that this was a **hearing only**.

### **SB 385, Sen. Hill (32nd), Physicians; provide for certain requirements for advertisement or publication of representation of board certification by physicians**

Sen. Hill (32nd) presented the bill to the Committee.

Dr. Alex Gross of Georgia Society of Dermatologists, Joanne Thurston of Cobb County Medical Society and Georgia Society of Plastic Surgeons spoke in support of the bill. There was further discussion amongst the Committee members and **the vote was postponed** until the next meeting.

**NOTE:** Sen. Cowsert (46th) and Sen. Hill (32nd) left at 3:30 p.m.

**SR 1029, Sen. Hufstetler (52nd), Create Joint Study Committee**

Sen. Hufstetler (52nd) presented the resolution to the Committee.

Sen. Watson (1st) made a motion SR 1029 **Do Pass** and Sen. Orrock (36th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 9-0.

**SR 1029 DO PASS**

**NOTE:** Sen. Hufstetler (52nd) left at 4:00 p.m.

**SB 389, Sen. Hunter Hill (6th), Social Services; temporary assistance for needy families; provide for exception to lifetime maximum assistance**

Sen. Hill (6th) presented the bill to the Committee.

Ann Mintz from United Way of Greater Atlanta and Jackie Tate from Department of Human Services each acknowledged the bill. There was no vote on the bill at this time.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Fran Millar (40th), Secretary

/s/ Avi'el Bland, Recording Secretary

## MINUTES OF SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

The Senate Committee on Health & Human Services met in Room 450 of the Capitol Building on Wednesday, February 24, 2016.

### MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sen. Renee Unterman (45th), Chairman  
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd), Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Fran Millar (40th), Secretary  
Sen. Dean Burke (11th)  
Sen. Gloria Butler (55th)  
Sen. Steve Henson (41st)  
Sen. Judson Hill (32nd)  
Sen. Lester Jackson (2nd)  
Sen. Greg Kirk (13th)  
Sen. William Ligon Jr. (3rd)  
Sen. Nan Orrock (36th)  
Sen. Ben Watson (1st)

**NOTE:** Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Sen. David Shafer (48th), and Sen. JaNice VanNess (43rd), were absent.

Chairman Unterman (45th) called the meeting to order at 2:15 p.m.

### **SB 382, Sen. Unterman (45th), Surprise Billing and Consumer Protection Act; provide for consumer protections regarding health insurance**

Sen. Unterman (45th) presented the bill to the Committee.

Courtney Terwilliger from the Georgia Association of EMS spoke.

There was further discussion amongst the Committee members and the Chairman acknowledged that this bill was up for a **hearing only**.

### **SB 385, Sen. Hill (32nd), provide for certain requirements for advertisement or publication of representation of board certification by physicians**

Sen. Hill (32nd) presented the bill to the Committee.

Sen. Watson (1st) made a motion SB 385 **Do Pass** and Sen. Millar (40th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 11-0.

### **SB 385 DO PASS**

**NOTE:** Sen. Millar (40th), Sen. Butler (55th), Sen. Henson (41st), Sen. Hill (32nd), and Sen. Ligon, Jr. (3rd) left at 2:40 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. VanNess (43rd) arrived at 2:50 p.m.

**SB 389, Sen. Hill (6th), Social Services; temporary assistance for needy families; provide for exception to lifetime maximum assistance**

Sen. Hill (6th) presented the bill to the Committee.

Ann Carter and Ashley Fielding from the TANF Department of Human Services spoke for the bill.

Sen. Kirk (13th) moved **SB 389 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 37 2171S)** and Sen. VanNess (43rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-2. Sen. Burke (11th), Sen. Hufstetler (52nd), Sen. Kirk (13th), Sen. VanNess (43rd) and Sen. Watson (1st) voted in favor and Sen. Jackson (2nd) and Sen. Orrock (36th) voted against.

**SB 389 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 37 2171S)**

With no further business, Sen. Unterman (45th) adjourned the meeting at 3:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Fran Millar (40th), Secretary

/s/ Avi'el Bland, Recording Secretary

## MINUTES OF SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

The Senate Committee on Health & Human Services met in Room 450 of the Capitol Building on Wednesday, March 2, 2016.

### MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sen. Renee Unterman (45th), Chairman  
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd), Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Dean Burke (11th)  
Sen. Gloria Butler (55th)  
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th)  
Sen. Lester Jackson (2nd)  
Sen. Greg Kirk (13th)  
Sen. William Ligon Jr. (3rd)  
Sen. Nan Orrock (36th)  
Sen. David Shafer (48th)  
Sen. JaNice VanNess (43rd)  
Sen. Ben Watson (1st)

**NOTE:** Sen. Fran Millar (40<sup>th</sup>), Secretary, Sen. Steve Henson (41st) and Sen. Judson Hill (32nd) were absent.

Chairman Unterman (45th) called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

**[HB 885](#), Rep. Jan Jones (47th), Health; certain counties to create a county board of health and wellness; repeal statute**

Rep. Jones (47th) presented the bill to the Committee.

Sen. Burke (11th) moved HB 885 **Do Pass By Substitute (LC 33 6577S)** and Sen. VanNess (43rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 11-0.

**HB 885 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 33 6577S)**

**NOTE:** Sen. Watson (1st) left at 3:15 p.m.

**[HB 770](#), Rep. Chuck Efstoration (104th), Crimes and offenses; trafficking of persons for labor or sexual servitude; provisions**

Rep. Efstoration (11th) presented the bill to the Committee.

Sen. Orrock (36th) made a motion HB 770 **Do Pass** and Sen. VanNess (43rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 10-0.

**HB 770 DO PASS**

**NOTE:** Sen. Ligon, Jr. (3rd) and Sen. Cowsert (46th) left at 3:25 p.m.

**[HB 649](#), Rep. Sharon Cooper (43rd), Georgia Lactation Consultant Practice Act**

Rep. Cooper (43rd) presented the bill to the Committee.

Leah Aldridge of Healthy Mothers and Healthy Babies, Anna Adams of Georgia Hospital Association, and Claire Eden of Children's Hospital of Atlanta spoke in favor of the bill.

Sen. Orrock (36th) made a motion HB 649 **Do Pass By Substitute (LC 33 6581S)** and Sen. Burke (11th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 8-0.

**HB 649 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 33 6581S)**

**NOTE:** Sen. VanNess (43rd) left at 3:35 p.m.

**[HB 886](#), Rep. Cooper (43rd), Pharmacy and Specialty Pharmacy Shipping Methods**

Rep. Cooper (43rd) presented the bill to the Committee.

Al Carter with CUS Health spoke in favor of the bill.

Sen. Jackson (2nd) made a motion HB 886 **Do Pass** and Vice-Chairman Hufstetler (52nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 7-0.

**HB 886 DO PASS**

**[HB 775](#), Rep. Earl Ehrhart (36th), Restrictions on the Sale and Dispensing of Spectacles**

Rep. John Meadows (5th) presented the bill to the Committee.

Sen. Kirk (13th) made a motion HB **775 Do Pass** and Sen. Shafer (48th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 7-0.

**HB 775 DO PASS**

**[HB 588](#), Rep. Valerie Clark (101st), Regulation and Real-time Tracking System for Sales of Products Containing Ephedrine or Pseudoephedrine**

Rep. Clark (101st) presented the bill to the Committee.

Greg Reysold with GPHA Association Counsel spoke in favor of the bill.

Sen. Hufstetler (52nd) made a motion HB 588 **Do Pass** and Sen. Jackson (2nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 7-0.

**HB 588 DO PASS**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Renee Unterman (45th), Chairman

/s/ Avi'el Bland, Recording Secretary

## MINUTES OF SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

The Senate Committee on Health & Human Services met in Room 450 of the Capitol Building on Monday, March 7, 2016.

### MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sen. Renee Unterman (45th), Chairman  
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd), Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Fran Millar (40th), Secretary  
Sen. Dean Burke (11th)  
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th)  
Sen. Steve Henson (41st)  
Sen. Greg Kirk (13th)  
Sen. Nan Orrock (36th)  
Sen. Ben Watson (1st)

**NOTE:** Sen. Gloria Butler (55th), Sen. Judson Hill (32nd), Sen. Lester Jackson (2nd), Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd), Sen. David Shafer (48th) and Sen. JaNice VanNess (43rd) were absent.

Chairman Unterman (45th) called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

### **HB 34, Rep. Mike Dudgeon (25th), Georgia Right to Try Act; enact**

Rep. Dudgeon (25th) presented the bill to the Committee.

Sen. Watson (1st) made a motion HB 34 **Do Pass** and Sen. Hufstetler (52nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 8-0.

### **HB 34 DO PASS**

**NOTE:** Sen. Butler (55th) arrived at 3:10 p.m.

### **HB 1085, Rep. Katie Dempsey (13th), Community-Based Services for the Elderly**

Rep. Dempsey (13th) presented the bill to the committee.

Sen. Watson (1st) made a motion HB 1085 **Do Pass** and Sen. Burke (11th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 9-0.

### **HB 1085 DO PASS**

**NOTE:** Sen. Jackson (2nd) and Sen. VanNess (43rd) arrived at 3:20 p.m.

### **HB 555, Rep. Joyce Chandler (105th), Courts; provide reporting of certain statistics regarding juveniles seeking abortions without parental notice; provisions**

Rep. Chandler (105th) presented the bill to the Committee.  
Christine Butcher with Administrative Office of the Courts spoke in favor of the bill.

Mrs. Butcher asked the Committee to amend the bill to change the date for annual reporting from Feb. 28 to March 15.

Sen. Kirk (13th) made a motion to amend HB 555 by changing the date for annual reporting from February 28th to March 15th and Sen. Hufstetler (52nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 11-0.

Sen. Kirk (13th) made a motion **HB 555 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 37 2190S)** and Sen. Hufstetler (52nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-4. The yeas were Vice-Chairman Hufstetler (52nd), Sen. Burke (11th), Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Kirk (13th), Sen. Millar (40th), Sen. VanNess (43rd) and Sen. Watson (1st). The nays were Sen. Butler (55th), Sen. Henson (41st), Sen. Jackson (2nd) and Sen. Orrock (36th).

**HB 555 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUE (LC 37 2190S)**

**NOTE:** Sen. Millar (40th), Sen. Watson (1st), and Sen. VanNess (43rd) left at 3:45 p.m.

**HB 725, Rep. Wes Cantrell (22nd), Child Abuse Records Protection Act**

Rep. Cantrell (22nd) presented the bill to the Committee.

Sen. Orrock (36th) made a motion **HB 725 Do Pass** and Sen. Henson (41st) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 8-0.

**HB 725 DO PASS**

**HB 212, Rep. Tom Weldon (3rd), Pain management clinics; health care professionals who must be on-site for the clinics to provide medical treatment or services**

Rep. Weldon (3rd) presented the bill to the Committee.

Jet Toney with the Georgia Society of Anesthesiologists spoke in favor of the bill.

Christie Dunkelberger of the GNA spoke against the bill.

The Chairman noted that this was a **hearing only** and no vote occurred.

**NOTE:** Sen. VanNess (43rd) returned at 3:50 p.m.

**[HB 887](#), Rep. Chuck Efstration (104th), Courts; parental rights; prioritize placement of a child with an adult of fictive kin qualified to care for such child**

Rep. Efstration (104th) presented the bill to the Committee.

Sen. Jackson (2nd), made a motion to amend the bill and Sen. Henson (41st) seconded the motion. The motion to amend passed unanimously 9-0.

Sen. Kirk (13th) made a motion HB 887 **Do Pass By Substitute (LC 37 2191ERS)** and Sen. VanNess (43rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed 8-1 with yeas being Sen. Jackson (2nd), Sen. Burke (11th), Sen. VanNess (43rd), Sen. Butler (55th), Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Kirk (13th), Sen. Orrock (36th) and Sen. Hufstetler (52nd) and the nay being Sen. Henson (41st).

**HB 887 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 37 2191ERS)**

**[HB 944](#), Rep. Sheri Gilligan (24th), Pronouncement of Death of Patients in Nursing Homes or Hospice Care**

Rep. Gilligan (24th) presented the bill to the Committee.

Stan Jones from the Hospice Association and Home Health Association spoke in favor of the bill.

Sen. Orrock (36th) made a motion HB 944 **Do Pass** and Sen. Henson (41st) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by 9-0.

**HB 944 DO PASS**

**[HB 962](#), Rep. Stacey Abrams (89th), Supporting and Strengthening Families Act**

Rep. Abrams (89th) presented the bill to the Committee.

Sen. Orrock (36th) moved HB 962 **Do Pass By Substitute (LC 37 2188S)** and Sen. Jackson (2nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 9-0.

**HB 962 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 37 2188S)**

**NOTE:** Sen. Cowsert (46th) and Sen. Jackson (2nd) left at 4: 05 p.m.

**[HB 1037](#), Rep. Valerie Clark (101st), Nurse Aide Registry**

Rep. Clark (101st) presented the bill to the Committee.

Sen. Orrock (36th) made a motion HB 1037 **Do Pass** and Sen. VanNess (43rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 7-0.

**HB 1037 DO PASS**

**HB 509, Rep. Jesse Petrea (166th), Georgia Palliative Care and Quality of Life Advisory Council**

Rep. Petrea (166th) presented the bill to the Committee.

Lee Hughes from the American Cancer Society spoke in favor of the bill.

Chairman Unterman (45th) noted that this was a **hearing only** and no vote occurred.

With no further business, Chairman Unterman (45th) adjourned the meeting at 4:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Fran Millar (40th), Secretary

/s/ Avi'el Bland, Recording Secretary

## MINUTES OF SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

The Senate Committee on Health & Human Services met in Room 450 of the Capitol Building on Wednesday, March 9, 2016.

### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd), Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Fran Millar (40th), Secretary  
Sen. Dean Burke (11th)  
Sen. Gloria Butler (55th)  
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th)  
Sen. Greg Kirk (13th)  
Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd)  
Sen. Nan Orrock (36th)  
Sen. JaNice VanNess (43rd)  
Sen. Ben Watson (1st)

**NOTE:** Sen. Renee Unterman (45th), Chairman, Sen. Steve Henson (41st), Sen. Judson Hill (32nd), Sen. Lester Jackson (2nd) and Sen. David Shafer (48th) were absent.

Vice-Chairman Hufstetler (52nd) called the meeting to order at 9:20 a.m.

### **HB 765, Rep. Jay Powell (171st), Board Members of County Departments of Family and Children Services**

Rep. Powell (171st) presented the bill to the Committee.

Sen. Millar (40th) made a motion HB 765 **Do Pass** and Sen. Orrock (36th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 9-0.

### **HB 765 DO PASS**

**NOTE:** Sen. Unterman (45th) arrived at 9:30 a.m.

### **HB 920, Rep. Trey Kelly (16th), Health; hospitals and related institutions; restrict civil actions against passive investors in nursing homes and intermediate care homes**

Rep. Kelley (16th) presented the bill to the Committee.

Tony Marshall and Bill Clark with the Georgia Health Care Association spoke in favor of the bill.

Joanne Mathis with the Georgia Council on Aging spoke in opposition to the bill.

The Vice-Chairman noted that this was a **hearing only**.

**[HB 910](#), Rep. Spencer Frye (118th), Health records; provisions relating to costs of copying and mailing patient records apply to psychiatric, psychological, and other mental health records; provide**

Rep. Frye (118th) presented the bill to the Committee.

Sen. Orrock (36th) made a motion HB 910 **Do Pass** and Sen. VanNess (43rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 10-0.

**HB 910 DO PASS**

**[HB 509](#), Rep. Jesse Petrea (166th), Georgia Palliative Care and Quality of Life Advisory Council**

Rep. Petrea (166th) presented the bill to the Committee.

Eric Bailey from the American Cancer Society spoke in favor of the bill.

Sen. Millar (40th) made a motion HB 509 **Do Pass By Substitute (LC 37 2208S)** and Sen. Orrock (36th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 10-0.

**HB 509 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 37 2208S)**

**[HB 1058](#), Rep. Betty Price (48th), Health; HIV and AIDS; revise various statutes**

Rep. Price (48th) presented the bill to the Committee.

Anna Adams with the Georgia Hospital Association and Jocelyn Whitfield with Grady Memorial Hospital spoke in favor of the bill.

Sen. Millar (40th) moved HB 1058 **Do Pass By Substitute (LC 33 6601S)** and Sen. Burke (11th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 10-0.

**HB 1058 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 33 6601S)**

**[HB 212](#), Rep. Tom Weldon (3rd), Pain management clinics; health care professionals who must be on-site for the clinics to provide medical treatment or services**

Rep. Weldon (3rd) presented the bill to the Committee.

Jet Toney with the Georgia Society of Anesthesiologists, Christie Dunkelberger, Jo Sineath, Steve Smith, Kay Arguoses with Georgia Association of Nurse Anesthetists and Timothy Butler with the Attorney General's office spoke in favor of the bill.

Sen. Kirk (13th) made a motion HB 212 **Do Pass By Substitute (LC 33 6603S)** and Sen. Orrock (36th) seconded the motion. The motion passed 9-1. The yea votes were Vice-Chairman Hufstetler (52nd), Sen. Millar (40th), Sen. Burke (11th), Sen. Butler (55th), Sen. Kirk (13th), Sen. Ligon, Jr. (3rd), Sen. Orrock (36th), Sen. VanNess (43rd) and Sen. Watson (1st). The nay vote was Sen. Cowsert (46th).

**HB 212 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 33 6603S)**

**NOTE:** Sen. Kirk (13th) left at 10:15 a.m.

**HB 902, Rep. Katie Dempsey (13th), Educational Information on Influenza Disease in Assisted Living Communities**

Rep. Dempsey (13th) presented the bill to the Committee.

Skin Edge with the Georgia Senior Living Association spoke for the bill.

Sen. Millar (40th) made a motion HB 902 **Do Pass** and Sen. Watson (1st) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 9-0.

**HB 902 DO PASS**

**NOTE:** Sen. Kirk (13th) returned at 10:35 a.m.

**HB 1043, Rep. Trey Kelley (16th), Vaccine protocol agreements; influenza**

Rep. Kelley (16th) presented the bill to the Committee.

Anna Adams with the Georgia Hospital Association and Tim Kibler with Georgia Alliance of Community Hospitals spoke in favor of the bill.

Sen. Watson (1st) moved HB 1043 **Do Pass By Substitute (LC 33 6588S)** and Sen. Burke (11th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 10-0.

**HB 1043 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 33 6588S)**

**HB 954, Rep. Chuck Efstration (104th), Uniform Adult Guardianship and Protective Proceedings Jurisdiction Act**

Rep. Efstration (104th) presented the bill to the Committee.

Melissa Sinden with AARP Georgia and Sheila Humberstone with the Alzheimer's Association spoke in favor of the bill.

Sen. Millar (40th) made a motion HB 954 **Do Pass By Substitute (LC 33 6586S)** and Sen. Kirk (13th) seconded the motion. The motion passed 9-1 with the yeas being Sen. Butler (55th), Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. VanNess (43rd), Sen. Kirk (13th), Sen. Orrock (36th), Sen. Hufstetler (52nd), Sen. Millar (40th), Sen. Burke (11th), and Sen. Watson (1st). The nay vote was Sen. Ligon (3rd).

**HB 954 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 33 6586S)**

With no further business, Chairman Unterman (45th) adjourned the meeting at 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Fran Millar (40th), Secretary

/s/ Avi'el Bland, Recording Secretary

## MINUTES OF SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

The Senate Committee on Health & Human Services met in Room 450 of the Capitol Building on Friday, March 11, 2016.

### MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sen. Renee Unterman (45th), Chairman  
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd), Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Fran Millar (40th), Secretary  
Sen. Dean Burke (11th)  
Sen. Gloria Butler (55th)  
Sen. Greg Kirk (13th)  
Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd)  
Sen. Nan Orrock (36th)  
Sen. Ben Watson (1st)

**NOTE:** Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Sen. Steve Henson (41st), Sen. Judson Hill (32nd), Sen. Lester Jackson (2nd), Sen. David Shafer (48th), and Sen. JaNice VanNess (43rd) were absent.

Chairman Unterman (45th) called the meeting to order at 3:25 p.m.

### **HB 920, Rep. Trey Kelley (16th), Health; hospitals and related institutions; restrict civil actions against passive investors in nursing homes and intermediate care homes**

Rep. Kelley (16th) presented the bill to the Committee.

Sen. Watson (1st) made a motion **HB 920 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 29 7093ERS)** and Sen. Ligon (3rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-2. The yea votes were Sen. Millar (40th), Sen. Burke (11th), Sen. Hufstetler (52nd), Sen. Kirk (13th), Sen. Ligon, Jr. (3rd), and Sen. Watson (1st). The nay votes were Sen. Butler (55th) and Sen. Orrock (36th).

### **HB 920 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 29 7093ERS)**

**NOTE:** Sen. Jackson (2nd) arrived at 3:35 p.m.

### **HB 229, Rep. Brian Strickland (111th), Domestic relations; grandparent rights to visitation and intervention to great-grandparents and siblings of parents**

Rep. Strickland (111th) presented the bill to the Committee.

A representative from Family Law Section of the Georgia Bar Association and Superior Court Judges spoke in favor of the bill.

Sen. Watson (1st) moved **HB 229 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 37 2216ERS)** and Sen. Kirk (13th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 9-0.

### **HB 229 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 37 2216ERS)**

**NOTE:** Sen. Henson (41st) arrived at 3:50 p.m.

**[HB 853](#), Rep. Lee Hawkins (27th), "Coverdell-Murphy Act"; update current system of levels of certified stroke centers to reflect advances in stroke treatments and therapy; provisions**

Rep. Hawkins (27th) presented the bill to the Committee.

Deb Bailey from Northeast Georgia Health Systems, Lee Hughes from American Heart Association, and Josh Mackey from Georgia Association of EMS each spoke in favor of the bill.

Sen. Watson (1st), made a motion HB 853 **Do Pass** and Sen. Orrock (36th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 10-0.

**HB 853 DO PASS**

**[HB 900](#), Rep. Sharon Cooper (43rd), Crimes and offenses; electronic data base of prescription information; authorize the retention of data base information for 2 years**

Rep. Cooper (43rd) presented the bill to the Committee.

Marcus Downs from Medical Association of Georgia and Greg Reybold from Georgia Pharmacy Association Counsel each spoke in favor of the bill.

Sen. Henson (41st) made a motion HB 900 **Do Pass** and Sen. Hufstetler (52nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 10-0.

**HB 900 DO PASS**

**[HB 934](#), Rep. Tom Kirby (114th), Website providing kinship caregivers with information and access to apply for public assistance benefits**

Rep. Kirby (114th) presented the bill to the Committee.

Sen. Kirk (13th), made a motion HB 934 **Do Pass** and Sen. Millar (40th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 10-0.

**HB 934 DO PASS**

**[HB 825](#), Rep. Earnest Smith (125th), Protecting Military Children Act**

Rep. Smith (125th) presented the bill to the Committee.

Sen. Henson (41st) moved HB 825 **Do Pass By Substitute (LC 41 0810S)** and Sen. Jackson (2nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 10-0.

**HB 825 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 41 0810S)**

**HB 916**, Rep. Dustin Hightower (68th), “The Pharmacy Audit Bill of Rights”

Rep. Hightower (68th) presented the bill to the Committee.

A representative from the Georgia Pharmacy Association spoke in favor of the bill.

Sen. Millar (40th) made a motion HB 916 **Do Pass** and Sen. Watson (1st) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 10-0.

**HB 916 DO PASS**

**HB 1070**, Rep. Katie Dempsey (13th), Domestic relations; adoption; permit the department to use certain information in the records concerning the adopted child's biological parents

Rep. Dempsey (13th) presented the bill to the Committee.

Sen. Millar (40th) moved HB 1070 **Do Pass By Substitute (LC 37 2214ERS)** and Sen. Ligon, Jr. (3rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 10-0.

**HB 1070 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 37 2214ERS)**

With no further business, Chairman Unterman (45th) adjourned the meeting at 4:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Fran Millar (40th), Secretary

/s/ Avi'el Bland, Recording Secretary

## MINUTES OF SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

The Senate Committee on Health & Human Services met in Room 450 of the Capitol Building on Monday, March 14, 2016.

### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Sen. Renee Unterman (45th), Chairman  
Sen. Fran Millar (40th), Secretary  
Sen. Dean Burke (11th)  
Sen. Gloria Butler (55th)  
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th)  
Sen. Steve Henson (41st)  
Sen. Lester Jackson (2nd)  
Sen. Greg Kirk (13th)  
Sen. Nan Orrock (36th)  
Sen. Ben Watson (1st)

**NOTE:** Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd), Vice-Chairman, Sen. Judson Hill (32nd), Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd), Sen. David Shafer (48th), and Sen. JaNice VanNess (43rd) were absent.

Chairman Unterman (45th) called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m.

### **HB 926, Rep. Bruce Broadrick (4th), Facilities involved in the wholesale, manufacture, and distribution of pharmaceutical drugs**

Rep. Broadrick (4th) presented the bill to the Committee.

Sen. Henson (41st) made a motion **HB 926 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 33 6613S)** and Sen. Burke (11th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 9-0.

### **HB 926 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 33 6613S)**

**NOTE:** Sen. VanNess arrived at 4:35 p.m.

### **HB 762, Rep. Wendell Willard (51st), Crimes and offenses; disposal of aborted human fetuses; change certain provisions**

Rep. Willard (51st) presented the bill to the Committee.

Sen. Kirk (13th) made a motion **HB 762 Do Pass** and Sen. VanNess (43rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-4. The yea votes were Sen. Millar (40th), Sen. Burke (11th), Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Kirk (13th), Sen. VanNess (43rd), and Sen. Watson (1st). The nay votes were Sen. Butler (55th), Sen. Henson (41st), Sen. Jackson (2nd) and Sen. Orrock (36th).

### **HB 762 DO PASS**

**HB 897, Rep. Betty Price (48th) Drug Repository Program**

Rep. Price (48th) presented the bill to the Committee.

Sen. Millar (40th) made a motion HB 897 **Do Pass** and Sen. VanNess (43rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 10-0.

**HB 897 DO PASS**

**NOTE:** Sen. Hill (32nd) arrived at 5:00 p.m.

**HB 919, Rep. Geoff Duncan (26th), Rural health care organizations which provide health care services to underserved areas**

Rep. Duncan (26th) presented the bill to the Committee.

Tim Kibler with the Georgia Alliance of Community Hospitals and Ethan James with the Georgia Hospital Association spoke in favor of the bill.

Tim Sweeney with the Georgia Budget and Policy Institute spoke against the bill.

Sen. Hill (32nd) made a motion to propose an amendment modeled after the Georgia Student Scholarship Organization and Sen. Jackson (2nd) seconded the motion. The motion failed 9-2. The yeas were Sen. Hill (32nd) and Sen. Jackson (2nd) and the nays were Sen. Millar (40th), Sen. Burke (11th), Sen. Butler (55th), Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Henson (41st), Sen. Watson (1st), Sen. Orrock (36th), Sen. Kirk (13th) and Sen. VanNess (43rd).

Sen. Burke (11th) made a motion HB 919 **Do Pass By Substitute (LC 34 4935S)** and Sen. Millar (40th) seconded the motion. The motion failed 7-4. The yea votes were Sen. Millar (40th), Sen. Burke (11th), Sen. Kirk (13th) and Sen. Watson (1st). The nay votes were Sen. Butler (55th), Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Henson (41st), Sen. Hill (32nd), Sen. Jackson (2nd), Sen. Orrock (36th), and Sen. VanNess (43rd). A copy of the failed substitute is attached.

**HB 919 MOTION FAILED**

**NOTE:** Sen. Hill (32nd), Sen. Jackson (2nd), Sen. VanNess (43rd), and Sen. Millar (40th) left at 5:15 p.m.

**SR 974, Sen. Unterman (45th), Create the Surprise Billing Practices Study Committee**

Chairman Unterman (45th) presented the resolution to the Committee.  
Sen. Kirk (13th) made a motion SR 974 **Do Pass** and Sen. Henson (41st) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 7-0.

**SR 974 DO PASS**

**SR 1056, Sen. Michael Rhett (33rd), Create the Premium Assistance Program Senate Study Committee**

Chairman Unterman (45th) presented the resolution to the Committee.

Sen. Kirk (13th) made a motion SR 1056 **Do Pass** and Sen. Henson (41st) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 7-0.

**SR 1056 DO PASS**

**SR 1059, Sen. Bruce Thompson (14th), Create the Non-embryonic and Non-fetal Cell Therapy Senate Study Committee**

Chairman Unterman (45th) presented the resolution to the Committee.

Sen. Kirk (13th) made a motion SR 1059 **Do Pass** and Sen. Henson (41st) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 7-0.

**SR 1059 DO PASS**

With no further business, Chairman Unterman (45th) adjourned the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Fran Millar (40th), Secretary

/s/ Avi'el Bland, Recording Secretary

The Senate Committee on Health and Human Services offers the following substitute to HB 919:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Titles 31 and 48 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to health and  
2 revenue and taxation, respectively, so as to approve rural health care organizations which  
3 provide health care services to underserved areas in this state to receive contributions; to  
4 provide for definitions; to provide for tax credits for contributions to rural and certain other  
5 health care organizations; to provide for the amount, nature, limits, and procedures for such  
6 tax credits; to provide for related matters; to provide for automatic repeal; to provide for  
7 applicability; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 SECTION 1.

10 Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to health, is amended by adding  
11 a new Code section to Article 1 of Chapter 8, relating to hospital care for the indigent  
12 generally, to read as follows:

13 "31-8-9.1.

14 (a) As used in this Code section, the term 'rural health care organization' means a hospital  
15 or other health care facility that:

16 (1)(A) Is located in a rural county;

17 (B) Participates in both Medicaid and medicare and accepts both Medicaid and  
18 medicare patients;

19 (C) Provides health care services to indigent patients;

20 (D) Receives at least 10 percent of its net revenue from uncompensated care or bad  
21 debts;

22 (E) Is a not for profit organization;

23 (F) Has a local board of directors;

24 (G) Is current with all audits and reports required by law; and

25 (H) Annually files IRS Form 990, Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax,  
26 with the Department of Community Health; or

27 (2) Is a critical access hospital as defined in paragraph (3) of Code Section 33-21A-2 that  
28 annually files IRS Form 990, Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax, with the  
29 Department of Community Health; or

30 (3) Is a rural health care organization that does not file an IRS Form 990, Return of  
31 Organization Exempt From Income Tax, but is operated by a county or municipal  
32 authority pursuant to Article 4 of Chapter 7 of Title 31.

33 (b) The Department of Community Health shall approve and maintain a list of rural health  
34 care organizations eligible to receive contributions from the tax credit provided pursuant  
35 to Code Section 48-7-29.20 and may adopt regulations as necessary to implement the  
36 provisions of this Code section.

37 (c)(1) Any rural health care organization on the list compiled by the Department of  
38 Community Health pursuant to subsection (b) of this Code section shall report all  
39 contributions received from individual and corporate donors pursuant to Code Section  
40 48-7-29.20. This report shall be filed annually on a form provided by the Department of  
41 Community Health and shall also show the manner in which the contributions received  
42 were expended by the rural health care organization.

43 (2) The Department of Community Health shall annually prepare a report compiling the  
44 information received pursuant to paragraph (1) of this subsection for the chairpersons of  
45 the House Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Health and Human Services  
46 Committee."

47 **SECTION 2.**

48 Title 48 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to revenue and taxation, is  
49 amended by adding a new Code section to Article 2 of Chapter 7, relating to imposition, rate,  
50 and computation of income taxes and exemptions, to read as follows:

51 "48-7-29.20.

52 (a) As used in this Code section, the term:

53 (1) 'Qualified rural health care organization expense' means the contribution of funds by  
54 an individual or corporate taxpayer during the tax year for which a credit under this Code  
55 section is claimed to a rural health care organization for the benefit of such organization.

56 (2) 'Rural health care organization' means an organization that is approved by the  
57 Department of Community Health pursuant to Code Section 31-8-9.1.

58 (b) An individual taxpayer shall be allowed a credit against the tax imposed by this chapter  
59 for contributions in support of a rural health care organization as follows:

60 (1) In the case of a single individual or a head of household, 80 percent of the actual  
61 amount expended or \$2,500.00 per tax year, whichever is less; or

62       (2) In the case of a married couple filing a joint return, 80 percent of the actual amount  
63       expended or \$5,000.00 per tax year, whichever is less.

64       (c) A corporation or other entity shall be allowed a credit against the tax imposed by this  
65       chapter for qualified rural health care organization expenses in an amount not to exceed 80  
66       percent of the actual amount expended or 75 percent of the corporation's income tax  
67       liability, whichever is less.

68       (d) In no event shall the total amount of the tax credit under this Code section for a taxable  
69       year exceed the taxpayer's income tax liability. Any unused tax credit shall be allowed the  
70       taxpayer against the succeeding five years' tax liability. No such credit shall be allowed  
71       the taxpayer against prior years' tax liability.

72       (e)(1) In no event shall the aggregate amount of tax credits allowed under this Code  
73       section exceed \$100 million per tax year.

74       (2) The commissioner shall allow the tax credits on a first come, first served basis.

75       (3) For the purposes of paragraph (1) of this subsection, a rural health care organization  
76       shall notify a potential donor of the requirements of this Code section. Before making  
77       a contribution to a rural health care organization, the taxpayer shall electronically notify  
78       the department, in a manner specified by the department, of the total amount of  
79       contributions that the taxpayer intends to make to the rural health care organization. The  
80       commissioner shall preapprove or deny the requested amount within 30 days after  
81       receiving the request from the taxpayer and shall provide written notice to the taxpayer  
82       and the rural health care organization of such preapproval or denial which shall not  
83       require any signed release or notarized approval by the taxpayer. In order to receive a tax  
84       credit under this Code section, the taxpayer shall make the contribution to the rural health  
85       care organization within 60 days after receiving notice from the department that the  
86       requested amount was preapproved. If the taxpayer does not comply with this paragraph,  
87       the commissioner shall not include this preapproved contribution amount when  
88       calculating the limit prescribed in paragraph (1) of this subsection. The department shall  
89       establish a web based donation approval process to implement this subsection.

90       (4) Preapproval of contributions by the commissioner shall be based solely on the  
91       availability of tax credits subject to the aggregate total limit established under  
92       paragraph (1) of this subsection. The department shall maintain an ongoing, current list  
93       on its website of the amount of tax credits available under this Code section.

94       (5) Notwithstanding any laws to the contrary, the department shall not take any adverse  
95       action against donors to rural health care organizations if the commissioner preapproved  
96       a donation for a tax credit prior to the date the rural health care organization is removed  
97       from the Department of Community Health list pursuant to Code Section 31-8-9.1, and



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**Renee S. Unterman**  
**Senator**  
**District 45**

**COMMITTEES:**  
Health and Human Services, Chairman  
Appropriations, Vice Chairman  
Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman  
(Human Development and Public Health)  
Finance, Ex-Officio  
Regulated Industries and Utilities, Ex-Officio  
Insurance and Labor, Member  
Rules, Member  
Lake Lanier Caucus Chairman  
Chairman's Caucus Chairman  
Committee on Assignments  
Administrative Affairs, Member

Mr. David A. Cook  
Secretary of the Senate  
353 State Capitol  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

MAR 29 PM 12:06

March 29th, 2016

Dear Mr. Cook,

As directed I am returning to your office the following bills and resolutions that were not acted upon this year by the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services on behalf of Chairwoman Unterman:

SB 39	SR 292	HB 47
SB 41	SR 407	HB 195
SB 66	SR 459	HB 498
SB 86	SR 479	HB 722
SB 87	SR 566	HB 780
SB 368	SR 592	HB 813
SB 381	SR 595	HB 826
SB 382	SR 722	HB 827
SB 418	SR 820	HB 847
	SR 940	HB 919

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Avi'el Bland".

Avi'el Bland  
Legislative Assistant