

SENATE COMMITTEE ON INSURANCE AND LABOR
2017 MEMBERS

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**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
INSURANCE AND LABOR
January 31, 2017**

The Senate Committee on Insurance and Labor held a meeting on Tuesday, January 31, 2017, at 1:00 p.m. in Room 450 of the State Capitol. Members present were as follows:

Sen. Burt Jones (25th), Chairman
Sen. David Shafer (48th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. P. K. Martin (9th), Secretary (*arrived late*)
Sen. Marty Harbin (16th)
Sen. Ed Harbison (15th)
Sen. Greg Kirk (13th)
Sen. Josh McKoon (29th)

NOTE: Sen. Renee Unterman (45th) and Sen. Larry Walker (20th) were absent.

Chairman Jones (25th) called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m., asking Sen. Harbin (16th) to open with prayer.

Chairman Jones (25th) thanked everyone for their attendance, and thanked the Committee members for their valued participation. The Chairman stated that the meeting would be quick, with only two matters at hand, with the first order being adoption of Committee Rules.

NOTE: Sen. Martin (9th) arrived at 1:03 p.m.

After review of the Committee Rules, Sen. McKoon (29th) motioned for the adoption of the Committee Rules as presented. Sen. Harbison (15th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 6-0.

SB 50 (Sen. Hunter Hill, 6th, LC 28 8219ER) "Direct Primary Care Act"; definitions; provide direct primary care agreements are not insurance

Chairman Jones (25th) introduced Sen. Hill (6th) to explain the bill.

Sen. Hill (6th) stated the legislation had been considered and studied for a couple of years and discussed its origin. Sen. Hill (6th) was accompanied by Dr. Howell, who would address the Committee and answer questions at the appropriate time.

Chairman Jones (25th) asked if there were any questions, and recognized Sen. Harbison (15th) for a question, which was answered by Sen. Hill (6th).

Chairman Jones (25th) stated that only one member of the general public signed up to speak on behalf of the bill, and recognized Dr. Hal C. Scherz, M.D., F.A.C.S., F.A.A.P., of Atlanta, Georgia, who also served as a Diplomate with the American Board of Urology.

Chairman Jones (25th) thanked Dr. Scherz for his testimony, and recognized Derrick Norton, representing the Medical Association of Georgia, to address the Committee.

Mr. Norton thanked the Committee for its diligence and offered his and the Medical Association of Georgia's support of the legislation.

Chairman Jones (25th) asked if there were further questions and recognized Sen. Shafer (48th), who commended Sen. Hill (6th) for his leadership on the bill, and asked questions about lines 38-39 and line 48 of the bill.

Sen. Martin (9th) made a motion **DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE**. Sen. Harbin (16th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 6-0.

SB 50 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE LC 37 2301ERS

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. P. K. Martin (9th), Secretary

/s/ C. Denese Sampson, Recording Secretary

SENATE COMMITTEE ON INSURANCE AND LABOR RULES

1. These Committee Rules of Operation shall be consistent with the Rules of the Senate and in the event of any conflict, the Rules of the Senate shall be observed.
2. Quorum of the Committee shall be five (5) members.
3. The Chairman shall determine which bills and resolutions are to be considered and the order in which said measures are considered.
4. The Chairman shall have the authority to refer bills and resolutions to Subcommittees for study. Such Subcommittees in turn shall have the authority to make recommendations on such measures to the full Committee at such time as shall be designated by the Chairman. Prior to Subcommittee action, the Chairman may recall any referred matter at his discretion.
5. The Committee shall convene, recess, and adjourn upon the order of the Chairman. In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman, Secretary or a Committee member designated by the Chairman shall preside, respectively.
6. Any member or members of the Committee who disagree with the majority report of the Committee shall be privileged to file a minority report in writing in accordance with the Rules of the Senate.
7. These Rules may be amended upon a motion duly made and subsequently approved by a quorum of the Committee in a meeting called by the Chairman.
8. A bill, resolution, or other matter will be considered only after presentation by its principal author or a legislator whom the author designates to do so.
9. The Chairman may delay action on substitutes and amendments not provided to the Chairman at least 24 hours prior to the hearing.
10. The Chairman shall manage the debate, deliberations, evidence, presentations and testimony during the course of meetings to best serve the interests of the Committee and the Senate on behalf of the citizens of Georgia.

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
INSURANCE AND LABOR
February 14, 2017**

The Senate Committee on Insurance and Labor held a meeting on Tuesday, February 14, 2017, at 1:00 p.m. in Room 450 of the State Capitol. Members present were as follows:

Sen. Burt Jones (25th), Chairman
Sen. P. K. Martin, IV (9th), Secretary
Sen. Marty Harbin (16th)
Sen. Greg Kirk (13th)
Sen. Josh McKoon (29th)
Sen. Renee Unterman (45th)
Sen. Larry Walker, III (20th) (*arrived late*)

NOTE: Sen. David Shafer (48th), Vice-Chairman, and Sen. Ed Harbison (15th) were absent.

Chairman Jones (25th) called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m., asking Sen. McKoon (29th) to open with a prayer.

Chairman Jones (25th) stated that only one bill was on the agenda, and expressed his appreciation for Sen. Unterman (45th) bringing the bill to the General Assembly's attention. The Chairman further stated that this issue had been a topic since 2012, and affirmed the importance of finally getting "the needle moved." Chairman Jones (25th) opened the floor to Sen. Unterman (45th).

SB 118 (Sen. Renee Unterman, 45th, LC 37 2291) Autism; age limit for coverage for autism spectrum disorders for an individual covered under a policy or contract; change

Sen. Unterman (45th) confirmed LC 37 2291 as the correct version of the bill, and explained that the Senate had led the way for families suffering from autism disorders.

NOTE: Sen. Walker (20th) arrived at 1:07 p.m.

Sen. Unterman (45th) explained that the bill changed one number, on line 11, which changed the age for mandated coverage to six years of age, with the maximum age changed to 21 years of age. She further stated that early intervention and diagnosis costs the state less in the long run.

Chairman Jones (25th) expressed his appreciation for the Senator's leadership on this cause, and invited those wishing to address the Committee to speak at the appropriate time.

Chairman Jones (25th) then asked about the decision for the maximum age to be 21. Sen. Unterman (45th) stated the Governor's office was integral in designating that age maximum, and that she was amenable to reducing the maximum age to 18, but not lower.

Sen. Unterman (45th) answered a series of questions from the Committee.

Chairman Jones (25th) asked if there were any more questions from the Committee. There were none. The Chairman asked if anyone else wanted to address the Committee in favor of, or in opposition to, the bill. There were no responses.

Chairman Jones (25th) asked for a motion. Sen. Kirk (13th) made a motion **DO PASS**. Sen. Martin (9th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 6-0.

SB 118 DO PASS

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. P. K. Martin (9th), Secretary

/s/ C. Denese Sampson, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
INSURANCE AND LABOR
February 15, 2017**

The Senate Committee on Insurance and Labor held a meeting on Wednesday, February 15, 2017, at 1:00 p.m. in Room 310 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building (CLOB). Members present were as follows:

Sen. Burt Jones (25th), Chairman
Sen. P. K. Martin (9th), Secretary
Sen. Marty Harbin (16th)
Sen. Josh McKoon (29th)
Sen. Renee Unterman (45th) (*arrived late*)
Sen. Larry Walker, III (20th)

NOTE: Sen. David Shafer (48th), Vice-Chairman, Sen. Ed Harbison (15th), and Sen. Greg Kirk (13th) were absent.

Chairman Jones (25th) called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m., asking Sen. Harbin (16th) to open with a prayer.

HB 127 (Rep. Richard Smith, 134th, LC 37 2275) Insurance; nonprofit medical and hospital service corporations; revise provisions

Chairman Jones (25th) recognized Rep. Smith (134th) to speak on the bill.

Rep. Smith (134th) stated that the Insurance Commissioner's office was in the process of modernizing the insurance code, which was the main purpose of the legislation.

Chairman Jones (25th) asked if there were any questions. There were none.

Rep. Smith (134th) added that the Committee would see several of these type of bills over the next few years.

NOTE: Sen. Unterman (45th) arrived at 1:07 p.m.

Sen. McKoon (29th) motioned **DO PASS**. Sen. Martin (9th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 5-0. Sen. Harbin (16th) will be the Senate sponsor.

HB 127 DO PASS

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. P. K. Martin, IV (9th), Secretary

/s/ C. Denese Sampson, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
INSURANCE AND LABOR
February 22, 2017**

The Senate Committee on Insurance and Labor held a meeting on Wednesday, February 22, 2017, at 1:00 p.m. in Room 310 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building (CLOB). Members present were as follows:

Sen. Burt Jones (25th), Chairman
Sen. David Shafer (48th), Vice Chairman (*arrived late*)
Sen. P. K. Martin, IV (9th), Secretary
Sen. Marty Harbin (16th) (*arrived late*)
Sen. Ed Harbison (15th) (*arrived late*)
Sen. Greg Kirk (13th)
Sen. Josh McKoon (29th)
Sen. Larry Walker, III (20th)

NOTE: Sen. Renee Unterman (45th) was absent.

Chairman Jones (25th) called the meeting to order at 1:09 p.m., apologizing for the late start, but explaining that the Committee had a working lunch session that had just ended.

Chairman Jones (25th) recognized the presence of Commissioner Ralph Hudgens of the Office of Insurance and Fire Safety Commissioner. The Chairman asked Sen. P. K. Martin (9th) to open with a prayer.

SB 201 (Sen. Butch Miller, 49th, LC 36 3112) Labor and Industrial Relations; employees to use sick leave for the care of immediate family members; allow

Chairman Jones (25th) recognized Sen. Miller (49th) to address the Committee, who confirmed LC 36 3305S as the substitute version of the bill.

Sen. Miller (49th) thanked the Chairman and the Committee, and briefly explained the merits of the bill, further stating that no organization had contacted him in opposition to the legislation.

Chairman Jones (25th) asked if there were questions from the Committee. There were none. The Chairman recognized Joanne Mathis and Hannah Rosenfeld, representatives of the Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities, who both spoke in favor of the bill. Chairman Jones (25th) also recognized Allison Smith Burk, a representative of the Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence, who spoke in favor of the bill.

NOTE: Sen. Harbin (16th) arrived at 1:18 p.m.

Chairman Jones (25th) recognized Melissa Sinden, representing AARP Georgia, who spoke in support of the bill.

NOTE: Sen. Harbison (15th) arrived at 1:21 p.m.

Sen. Kirk (13th) made a motion **DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE LC 36 3305S**. Sen. Martin (9th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 6-0.

SB 201 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE LC 36 3305S

SB 103 (Sen. Jeff Mullis, 53rd, LC 28 8141ER) 'The Pharmacy Patient Fair Practices Act'; pharmacy benefits managers; Commissioner of Insurance to promulgate certain rules and regulations; authorize

Chairman Jones (25th) confirmed LC 28 8374ERS as the substitute version and recognized Sen. Mullis (53rd) to address the bill.

Sen. Mullis (53rd) thanked the Chairman and the Committee, and stated that he was proud to present the bill as it was presented to him by a local farmer in his district.

Chairman Jones (25th) thanked Sen. Mullis (53rd) for his work on the bill and asked if there were any questions from the Committee. There were none.

Sen. Harbison (15th) made a motion **DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE LC 28 8374ERS**. Sen. Harbin (16th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 6-0.

SB 103 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE LC 28 8374ERS

SR 206 (Sen. Michael Williams, 27th, LC 33 6867) Senate Work and Save Study Committee; create

Chairman Jones (25th) confirmed LC 33 6867 as the correct version, and recognized Sen. Williams (27th) to explain the resolution.

Sen. Williams (27th) addressed the Committee and briefly explained how the bill affected Georgia citizens, mainly targeting small businesses. He further stated that nine states had similar legislation in place, helping citizens save for retirement. Sen. Williams (27th) asked if there were questions from the Committee.

Sen. Martin (9th) asked, in the case of other states with similar legislation, do the plans offer deferred payments? Sen. Williams (27th) responded that he was unsure of the answer, but resolved to look into the matter.

Sen. Martin (9th) made a motion **DO PASS**. Sen. Harbin (16th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 6-0.

SR 206 DO PASS

SB 164 (Sen. Fran Millar, 40th, LC 37 2320ER) Insurance; copayment, coinsurance, or office visit deductible; for services rendered by a physical therapist; prohibit certain insurers from imposing

Chairman Jones (25th) confirmed LC 37 2320ER as the correct version and recognized Sen. Millar (40th) to explain the bill.

Sen. Millar (40th) stated that he would offer one amendment to the bill, and proceeded to explain the amendment.

Chairman Jones (25th) stated that the legislation could get confusing for consumers, and said he believed the amendment would simplify matters. Sen. Millar (40th) stated that people were frustrated because there was no uniformity, and expressed his hope that the legislation would clarify the process.

Chairman Jones (25th) asked if there were further questions from the Committee. There were none.

The Chairman recognized citizens who signed up to address the Committee about the bill: Aubrey Villines, representing the Georgia Injured Workers Association, and Dr. Mark Cottony of Atlanta, Georgia, addressed the Committee in favor of the legislation and answered several questions from Committee members.

NOTE: Sen. Shafer (48th) arrived.

Chairman Jones (25th) asked if there were further questions. There were none.

The Chairman recognized Graham Thompson, representing The Georgia Association of Health Plans, to address the Committee in opposition to the legislation. Mr. Thompson distributed information to the Committee for review, and answered questions from Sen. Kirk (13th) and Sen. McKoon (29th).

Chairman Jones (25th) stated that an amendment must be introduced before further action on the bill, and explained that the amendment simply added the word “care” to line 23, as in primary care physician.

Sen. McKoon (29th) motioned for adoption of the amendment in order to create a Senate substitute. Sen. Harbison (15th) seconded the motion. The amendment passed by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Sen. McKoon (29th) made a motion **DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE LC 37 2379ERS**. Sen. Harbison (15th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

SB 164 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE LC 37 2379ERS

SB 200 (Sen. Chuck Hufstetler, 52nd, LC 33 6895) Insurance; synchronizing patients' chronic medications; provide

Chairman Jones (25th) confirmed LC 33 6895 as the correct version and recognized Sen. Hufstetler (52nd) to address the bill.

Sen. Hufstetler (52nd) briefly explained the bill, stating that seventeen states had already passed similar legislation, and affirmed that several citizens accompanied him who were ready to speak in favor of the legislation as necessary.

Chairman Jones (25th) thanked Sen. Hufstetler (52nd) for his presentation and asked if there were any questions from the Committee, and recognized Sen. Martin (9th) for one question.

Sen. Martin (9th) made a motion **DO PASS**. Sen. McKoon (29th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 7-0.

SB 200 DO PASS

SB 173 (Sen. Burt Jones, 25th, LC 37 2297) Captive Insurance Companies; provisions; extensively revise

Chairman Jones (25th) asked the Committee Vice-Chairman, Sen. David Shafer (48th) to preside over the meeting as he presented SB 173 to the Committee. Sen. Shafer (48th) deferred the task to Sen. Martin (9th), who obliged and presided over the remainder of the meeting.

Sen. Jones (25th) confirmed LC 37 2368S as the substitute version, and explained the legislation as being referred to as the Captive Insurance bill presented on behalf of the Georgia Office of Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner.

Sen. Jones (25th) invited Lindsey N. Scott, Legislative Liaison for the Georgia Office of Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner, to address the Committee with further explanations and to answer any questions from the Committee.

Sen. Martin (9th) asked if there were any questions from the Committee. There were none.

Sen. Martin (9th) recognized Commissioner Ralph T. Hudgens, of the Georgia Office of Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner, who asked Courtney Foust, Director of the Captive Insurance Division of the office, to explain the full ramifications of the bill and its origin. Ms. Foust explained that the legislation would bring Georgia in line with other states and welcomed questions from the Committee.

Sen. Harbin (16th) made a motion **DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE LC 37 2368S**. Sen. Harbison (15th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 7-0.
SB 173 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE LC 37 2368S

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. P. K. Martin (9th), Secretary

/s/ C. Denese Sampson, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
INSURANCE AND LABOR
February 27, 2017**

The Senate Committee on Insurance and Labor held a meeting on Monday, February 27, 2017, at 2:00 p.m. in Room 125 of the State Capitol. Members present were as follows:

Sen. Burt Jones (25th), Chairman
Sen. P. K. Martin (9th), Secretary
Sen. Marty Harbin (16th)
Sen. Greg Kirk (13th)
Sen. Josh McKoon (29th)
Sen. Renee Unterman (45th)
Sen. Larry Walker, III (20th)

NOTE: Sen. David Shafer (48th), Vice-Chairman, and Sen. Ed Harbison (15th) were absent.

Chairman Jones (25th) called the meeting to order at 3:20 p.m., asking Sen. McKoon (29th) to open with a prayer.

SB 206 (Sen. P. K. Martin, 9th, LC 37 2350) 'Hearing Aid Coverage for Children Act'

Chairman Jones (25th) confirmed LC 37 2350 as the correct version and recognized Sen. Martin (9th) to explain the bill.

Sen. Martin (9th) invited private citizens Kelly Jenkins and Sarah Kogon, co-founders of Let Georgia Hear, to accompany him and present their experiences to the Committee. Mrs. Jenkins introduced her minor daughter, Sloane Jenkins, who addressed the Committee detailing her experiences.

Chairman Jones (25th) asked if there were any further questions. There were none.

The Chairman recognized Comer Yates, Executive Director of the Atlanta Speech School and Chairman of the Georgia Commission on Hearing Impaired and Deaf Persons, to address the Committee.

Chairman Jones (25th) recognized Jack McConnell, a teen advocate and high school freshman attending Mt. Pisgah, who addressed the Committee, detailing his experiences with being born as a hearing impaired citizen.

Chairman Jones (25th) recognized Sen. Unterman (45th), who commended Jack for his comments and advocacy. Sen. Kirk (13th) was recognized for a few questions posed to Jack, who eagerly responded, providing more detail about his personal experiences.

The Chairman asked if there were any further questions. There were none.

Chairman Jones (25th) also recognized Dr. Jonathan D. Winner, a pediatrician at Northside Pediatrics, and Amy Speir, a teacher of deaf and hard of hearing students at Oakland Elementary School in McDonough, Georgia, to speak to the Committee.

The Chairman and the Committee asked a few more questions of Sen. Martin (9th) and Mrs. Jenkins, and Sen. Martin (9th) concluded his presentation.

Sen. Kirk (13th) made a motion **DO PASS**. Sen. Walker (20th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 6-0.

SB 206 DO PASS

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. P. K. Martin (9th), Secretary

/s/ C. Denese Sampson, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
INSURANCE AND LABOR
March 1, 2017**

The Senate Committee on Insurance and Labor held a meeting on Thursday, March 1, 2017, at 1:00 p.m. in Room 310 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building (CLOB). Members present were as follows:

Sen. Burt Jones (25th), Chairman (*arrived late*)
Sen. Marty Harbin (16th)
Sen. Greg Kirk (13th)
Sen. Josh McKoon (29th)
Sen. Renee Unterman (45th) (*arrived late*)
Sen. Larry Walker, III (20th)

NOTE: Sen. David Shafer (48th), Vice-Chairman, Sen. P. K. Martin, IV (9th), Secretary, and Sen. Ed Harbison (15th) were absent.

Sen. McKoon (29th) called the meeting to order at 1:08 p.m., reminding the Committee and audience that bills on the agenda would receive a hearing without being voted on by Committee members.

SB 248 (Sen. Marty Harbin, 16th, LC 37 2370ER) Life Insurance; life insurers' requirement to review the National Association of Insurance Commissioners life insurance policy locator; provide

Sen. McKoon (29th) invited Sen. Harbin (16th) to explain the bill.

NOTE: Sen. Jones (25th) arrived at 1:09 p.m.

Chairman Jones (25th) thanked Sen. McKoon (29th) for calling the meeting to order in his absence.

NOTE: Sen. Unterman (45th) arrived at 1:11 p.m.

Sen. Harbin (16th) continued with his explanation of the bill and answered questions presented by the Chairman.

Chairman Jones (25th) thanked Sen. Harbin (16th) for his presentation and asked if there were any more questions from the Committee. There were none.

HB 74 (Rep. Darlene Taylor, 173rd, LC 37 2253ER) Insurance; life risk-based capital trend test to comply with accreditation standards; change

Chairman Jones (25th) confirmed LC 37 2253ER as the correct version and invited Rep. Taylor (173rd) to address the Committee about the bill.

Rep. Taylor (173rd) explained the bill to the Committee and offered to answer any questions. The Chairman recognized Sen. Kirk (13th), who asked a series of questions.

Chairman Jones (25th) thanked Rep. Taylor (173rd) for explaining the bill and expressed hope for the Committee to be able to vote on the legislation at the next meeting.

HB 243 (Rep. Bill Werkheiser, 157th, LC 36 3200) Minimum wage; require additional pay to employees based on schedule changes; preempt local government mandates

Chairman Jones (25th) confirmed LC 36 3200 as the correct version of the bill and recognized Rep. Werkheiser (157th) to address the Committee.

The Chairman asked a few questions, which Rep. Werkheiser (157th) answered, and asked if there were any questions from the Committee. There were none.

Chairman Jones (25th) thanked Rep. Werkheiser (157th) for his presentation and informed him that a vote on the bill would be considered at the next Committee meeting.

HB 174 (Rep. Eddie Lumsden, 12th, LC 37 2330S) Insurance; insurer's medium of payment of policy or contractual obligations; expand

Chairman Jones (25th) confirmed LC 37 2330S as the correct version and recognized Rep. Lumsden (12th) to explain the bill.

Rep. Lumsden (12th) explained the bill and answered a few questions from the Committee.

The Chairman asked if he had secured a Senate sponsor for the bills. Rep. Lumsden (12th) stated that Sen. Bruce Thompson (14th) had agreed to sponsor both bills presented, HB 174 and HB 262. The Chairman informed him that a vote on the bills would be considered at the next Committee meeting.

HB 262 (Rep. Eddie Lumsden, 12th, LC 37 3221) Insurance; standalone dental plans; exempt from requirement of printed directories for certain entities

Rep. Lumsden (12th) explained the workings of the bill and offered to answer questions from the Committee.

The Chairman thanked him for his presentation and for working with the Committee, and informed him that a vote on the bill would be considered at the next Committee meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Burt Jones (25th), Chairman

/s/ C. Denese Sampson, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
INSURANCE AND LABOR
March 9, 2017**

The Senate Committee on Insurance and Labor held a meeting on Thursday, March 9, 2017, at 4:00 p.m. in Room 310 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building (CLOB). Members present were as follows:

Sen. Burt Jones (25th), Chairman
Sen. P. K. Martin, IV (9th), Secretary (*left early*)
Sen. Marty Harbin (16th)
Sen. Ed Harbison (15th)
Sen. Greg Kirk (13th)
Sen. Renee Unterman (45th) (*arrived late*)
Sen. Larry Walker, III (20th)

NOTE: Sen. David Shafer (48th), Vice-Chairman, and Sen. Josh McKoon (29th) were absent.

Chairman Jones (25th) called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m., asking Sen. Walker (20th) to open with a prayer.

HB 74 (Rep. Darlene Taylor, 173rd, LC 37 2253ER) Insurance; life risk-based capital trend test to comply with accreditation standards; change

Chairman Jones (25th) confirmed LC 37 2253ER as the correct version and recognized Rep. Taylor (173rd) to explain the bill.

Sen. Martin (9th) made a motion **DO PASS**. Sen. Harbison (15th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 5-0. Sen. Martin (9th) will be the Senate sponsor.

HB 74 DO PASS

HB 243 (Rep. Bill Werkheiser, 157th, LC 36 3200) Minimum wage; require additional pay to employees based on schedule changes; preempt local government mandates

Chairman Jones (25th) confirmed LC 36 3200 as the correct version and recognized Rep. Werkheiser (157th) to explain the bill.

The Chairman asked if there were any questions, then recognized Sen. Harbison (15th) for one question of clarification on the intent of the bill. Rep. Werkheiser (157th) explained that the bill was preemptive.

Sen. Martin (9th) moved **DO PASS**. Sen. Harbin (16th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 4-1, with Sen. P. K. Martin (9th), Sen. Harbin (16th), Sen. Kirk (13th), and Sen. Walker (20th) voting YES, and Sen. Harbison (15th) voting NO. Sen. Harbin (16th) will be the Senate sponsor.

HB 243 DO PASS

HB 276 (David Knight, 130th, LC 28 8398ERS) The Pharmacy Patient Fair Practices Act; enact

Chairman Jones (25th) confirmed LC 28 8398ERS as the correct version and recognized Rep. Knight (130th) to explain the bill.

Sen. Kirk (13th) made a motion **DO PASS**. Sen. Walker (20th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 5-0. Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd) will be the Senate sponsor.

HB 276 DO PASS

Chairman Jones (25th) confirmed that Sen. Mullis (53rd) would serve as Senate sponsor of the bill.

HB 174 (Eddie Lumsden, 12th, LC 37 2330S) Insurance; insurer's medium of payment of policy or contractual obligations; expand

The Chairman recognized Rep. Lumsden (12th) to explain the bill.

Sen. Kirk (13th) motioned **DO PASS**. Sen. Harbison (15th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 5-0. Sen. Bruce Thompson (14th) will be the Senate sponsor.

HB 174 DO PASS

NOTE: Sen. Unterman (45th) arrived at 4:08 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Martin (9th) left at 4:08 p.m.

HB 262 (Eddie Lumsden, 12th, LC 37 3221) Insurance; standalone dental plans; exempt from requirement of printed directories for certain entities

Sen. Harbison (15th) made a motion **DO PASS**. Sen Kirk (13th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 5-0. Sen. Bruce Thompson (14th) will be the Senate sponsor.

HB 262 DO PASS

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. P. K. Martin (9th), Secretary

/s/ C. Denese Sampson, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
INSURANCE AND LABOR
March 14, 2017**

The Senate Committee on Insurance and Labor held a meeting on Tuesday, March 14, 2017, at 1:00 p.m. in Room 310 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building (CLOB). Members present were as follows:

Sen. Burt Jones (25th), Chairman
Sen. P. K. Martin (9th), Secretary
Sen. Marty Harbin (16th) (*arrived late*)
Sen. Greg Kirk (13th) (*arrived late*)
Sen. Josh McKoon (29th)
Sen. Larry Walker, III (20th)

NOTE: Sen. David Shafer (48th), Vice-Chairman, Sen. Ed Harbison (15th) and Sen. Renee Unterman (45th) were absent.

Chairman Jones (25th) called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m., asking Sen. Martin (9th) to open with a prayer.

HB 92 (Rep. John Carson, 46th, LC 37 2278) Insurance; automobile or motorcycle policies; expand definition of policy

Chairman Jones (25th) confirmed LC 37 2401S as the substitute version and recognized Rep. Carson (46th) to address the Committee.

Rep. Carson (46th) explained the bill, highlighting provisions on lines 2 and 10, and offered to answer any questions.

NOTE: Sen. Harbin (16th) arrived at 1:05 p.m.

Chairman Jones (25th) recognized Sen. Martin (9th) for a question, which Rep. Carson (46th) answered.

Sen. McKoon (29th) made a motion **DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE LC 37 2401S**. Sen. Harbison (15th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 4-0. Sen. Martin (9th) will be the Senate sponsor.

HB 92 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE LC 37 2401S

HB 64 (Rep. Shaw Blackmon, 146th, LC 37 2411S) Protection and Guarantee of Service for Health Insurance Consumers Act; enact

The Chairman confirmed LC 37 2411S as the substitute version and recognized Rep. Blackmon (146th) to address the Committee.

Chairman Jones (25th) thanked Rep. Blackmon (146th) for his work on the bill and complimented the final product.

NOTE: Sen. Kirk (13th) arrived at 1:10 p.m.

Chairman Jones (25th) asked a question, to which Rep. Blackmon (146th) responded, and recognized Sen. McKoon (29th), Sen. Harbison (15th), and Sen Harbin (16th) for a series of questions.

Sen. Walker (20th) moved **DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE**.

Chairman Jones (25th) suspended the motion in order to recognize Mr. Randall Ware of Powder Springs, Georgia, who requested to address the Committee in support of the bill.

The Chairman recognized Brad Carver, representative of the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors (NAIFA), to address the Committee in support of the legislation.

The Chairman also recognized Graham Thompson, representing the Georgia Association of Health Plans, to speak in favor of the bill.

The Chairman asked if there were further questions. There were none.

Chairman Jones (25th) reaffirmed the **DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE** motion made by Sen. Walker (20th). Sen. Kirk (13th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 5-0. Sen. Martin (9th) will be the Senate sponsor.

HB 64 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE LC 37 2411S

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. P. K. Martin (9th), Secretary

/s/ C. Denese Sampson, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
INSURANCE AND LABOR
March 20, 2017**

The Senate Committee on Insurance and Labor held a meeting on Monday, March 20, 2017, at 4:00 p.m. in Room 310 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building (CLOB). Members present were as follows:

Sen. Burt Jones (25th), Chairman
Sen. P. K. Martin, IV (9th), Secretary
Sen. Marty Harbin (16th)
Sen. Greg Kirk (13th)
Sen. Larry Walker, III (20th)

NOTE: Sen. David Shafer (48th), Vice-Chairman, Sen. Ed Harbison (15th), Sen. Josh McKoon (29th), and Sen. Renee Unterman (45th) were absent.

Chairman Jones (25th) called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m., asking Sen. Kirk (13th) to open with a prayer.

HB 214 (Rep. Rich Golick, 40th, LC 29 7405S) Crimes and offenses; consistent punishment for the unlawful manufacture, sale or distribution of a proof of insurance document; provide

Chairman Jones (25th) confirmed LC 41 1183S as the substitute version and recognized Rep. Golick (40th) to explain the bill, and address the Committee substitute offered by Sen. Blake Tillery (19th). Rep. Golick (40th) explained the bill and offered support of the Committee substitute offered by the Senator.

The Chairman asked if there were any questions, and recognized Sen. Harbin (16th) for a question.

Sen. Walker (20th) made a motion **DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE LC 41 1183S**. Sen. Martin (9th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 4-0. Sen. Blake Tillery (19th) will be the Senate sponsor.

HB 214 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE LC 41 1183S

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. P. K. Martin (9th), Secretary

/s/ C. Denese Sampson, Recording Secretary