

**The Senate Committee on Veterans, Military, and Homeland Security
2019 Members**

Sen. Bruce Thompson, Chairman

District 14
25 Hawks Branch Lane
White, GA 30184

Sen. Ed Harbison, Vice-Chairman

District 15
P.O. Box 1292
Columbus, GA 31902

Sen. Mike Dugan, Secretary

District 30
P.O. Box 1260
Carrollton, GA 30112

Sen. Tonya Anderson

District 43
P.O. Box 1026
Lithonia, GA 30058

Sen. Emanuel Jones

District 10
P.O. Box 370244
Decatur, GA 30037

Sen. Zahra Karinshak

District 48
P.O. Box 956034
Duluth, GA 30095

Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick

District 32
2926 Ashebrooke Drive
Marietta, GA 30068

Sen. Michael 'Doc' Rhett

District 33
P.O. Box 777
Marietta, GA 30061

Sen. Larry Walker III, Ex-Officio

District 20
1110 Washington Street
Perry, GA 31069

Sen. Ben Watson, Ex-Officio

District 1
1326 Eisenhower Drive #2
Savannah, GA 31406

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Veterans, Military, and Homeland Security
Wednesday, February 20, 2019**

The Senate Committee on Veterans, Military, and Homeland Security met on Wednesday, February 20, 2019 at 2:00 p.m. in Room 310 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Bruce Thompson (14th), Chairman
Sen. Tonya Anderson (43rd)
Sen. Zahra Karinshak (48th)
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd)
Sen. Michael 'Doc' Rhett (33rd)

NOTE: Sen. Ed Harbison (15th) Vice-Chairman, Sen. Mike Dugan (30th) Secretary, Sen. Emanuel Jones (10th), Sen. Larry Walker III (20th) Ex-Officio, and Sen. Ben Watson (1st) Ex-Officio were absent.

Chairman Thompson (14th) called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

The Chair presented the 2019-2020 Rules to the Committee and opened the floor for debate.

The Chair recognized Sen. Michael 'Doc' Rhett (33rd) who made a motion to adopt the 2019-2020 Rules, as presented to the Committee. Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. A copy of the Rules is attached.

Presenter: Ben Jarrard, Executive Director for Government Relations and Economic Development, University of North Georgia

The Chair recognized Ben Jarrard of The University of North Georgia to present to the Committee. The presentation was in relation to initiatives of the University's Corps of Cadets.

Presenter: Mike Roby, Commissioner, Georgia Department of Veterans Services

The Chair recognized Commissioner Mike Roby of the Georgia Department of Veterans Services to present to the Committee. The presentation was in relation to services their department offers to Georgia citizens.

With no further business, Chairman Thompson (14th) adjourned the meeting at 3:08 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Sen. Bruce Thompson (14th), Chairman

/s/ Hallie Allen, Recording Secretary

**SENATE VETERANS, MILITARY, AND HOMELAND SECURITY
COMMITTEE RULES
2019-2020 Biennium**

1. All meetings of the Committee shall be open to the public in accordance with Senate Rule [1-5.1].
2. The quorum for the Veterans, Military, and Homeland Security 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; the Chairman shall have the authority to call a bill, resolution, substitute or amendment for debate and explanation only.
4. The Chairman shall have the sole 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. All actions of any subcommittee shall be approved or disapproved by the standing Committee.
5. The committee shall convene, recess, and adjourn upon the order of the Chairman.
6. The Chairman reserves the right to delay action on substitutes and amendments not provided to the Chairman at least 48 hours prior to the hearing.
7. Any member or members of the Committee who disagree with the majority report of the Committee shall be privileged to file a Minority report in writing, setting forth concise reasons for their dissent.
8. These rules may be amended or waived upon a motion duly made and subsequently approved by a quorum of the Committee, in a meeting called by the Chairman.
9. A bill, resolution, or other matter will be considered only after presentation by its principal author or a legislator whom he or she designated to do so. In the event that more than one member of the General Assembly has signed a measure; the principal author shall be the one whose name appears first in the list of authors.
10. When these rules are silent on a specific issue, the Rules of the Senate, as adopted, shall govern.

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Veterans, Military, and Homeland Security
Wednesday, February 27, 2019**

The Senate Committee on Veterans, Military, and Homeland Security met on Wednesday, February 27, 2019 at 2:00 p.m. in Room 310 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Bruce Thompson (14th), Chairman (*Left early*)
Sen. Ed Harbison (15th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Mike Dugan (30th), Secretary
Sen. Tonya Anderson (43rd)
Sen. Zahra Karinshak (48th)
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd)
Sen. Michael ‘Doc’ Rhett (33rd) (*Arrived late*)

NOTE: Sen. Emanuel Jones (10th), Sen. Larry Walker III (20th) Ex-Officio, and Sen. Ben Watson (1st) Ex-Officio were absent.

Chairman Thompson (14th) called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

SB 140 (Sen. Harbison, 15th, LC 48 0067) World War I Centennial Commission; sunset provisions; extend

The Chair recognized Sen. Ed Harbison (15th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Harbison (15th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public. He recognized the following:

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Thomas Lacy, Vice President of the World War I Commission

With no further testimony, the Chair opened the floor for debate.

The Chair recognized Sen. Mike Dugan (30th) who made a motion that **SB 140 Do Pass (LC 48 0067)**. Sen. Tonya Anderson (43rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SB 140 DO PASS (LC 48 0067)

SB 170 (Sen. Thompson, 14th, LC 47 0091ER) State and Other Flags; Honor and Remember flag as the state's emblem of the service and sacrifice of the members of the armed forces; designate

The Chair presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Michael 'Doc' Rhett (33rd) arrived at 2:06 p.m.

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public. No one offered testimony.

The Chair opened the floor for debate.

The Chair recognized Sen. Harbison (15th) who made a motion that **SB 170 Do Pass (LC 47 0091ER)**. Sen. Zahra Karinshak (48th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SB 170 DO PASS (LC 47 0091ER)

NOTE: The Chair recognized Sen. Harbison (15th) to preside in his absence. Sen. Thompson (14th) left at 2:08 p.m.

SR 104 (Sen. Karinshak, 48th, LC 47 0023ER) United States Department of Veterans Affairs; establish new outpatient Veterans Affairs clinics; request

The Vice-Chair recognized Sen. Karinshak (48th) for the purpose of presenting the resolution. Sen. Karinshak (48th) presented the resolution.

The Vice-Chair opened the floor for comments from the public. No one offered additional testimony.

The Vice-Chair opened the floor for debate.

The Vice-Chair recognized Sen. Anderson (43rd) who made a motion that **SR 107 Do Pass (LC 47 0023ER)**. Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SR 104 DO PASS (LC 47 0023ER)

With no further business, Vice-Chairman Harbison (15th) adjourned the meeting at 2:11 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Sen. Mike Dugan (30th), Secretary

/s/ Hallie Allen, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Veterans, Military, and Homeland Security
Tuesday, March 19, 2019**

The Senate Committee on Veterans, Military, and Homeland Security held a meeting on Tuesday, March 19, 2019 at 9:30 a.m. in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building. The following Senators were in attendance:

Sen. Bruce Thompson (14th), Chairman
Sen. Ed Harbison (15th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd)
Sen. Michael ‘Doc’ Rhett (33rd)
Sen. Larry Walker III (20th) (Ex-Officio)
Sen. Ben Watson (1st) (Ex-Officio) (*Arrived Late*)

NOTE: Sen. Mike Dugan (30th) Secretary, Sen. Tonya Anderson (43rd), Sen. Zahra Karinshak (48th), and Sen. Emanuel Jones (10th) were absent.

Chairman Thompson (14th) called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m.

[HB 25](#) (Rep. Belton, 112th, LC 41 1785S) Contracts; provide military service members civil relief concerning certain contractual obligations due to circumstances of active duty

The Chair recognized the Deputy Adjutant General of the Georgia National Guard, Joachim Ferrero, for the purpose of presenting the bill on behalf of Rep. Dave Belton (112th). Mr. Ferrero presented the bill and the substitute (LC 41 1966S) to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Ben Watson (1st) arrived at 9:38 a.m.

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public. He recognized the following:

Testimony in favor of the substitute:

Elizabeth Harwood on behalf of AT&T, Georgia Cable Association, and Verizon

The Chair opened the floor for debate.

The Chair recognized Sen. Ed Harbison (15th) who made a motion that **HB 25 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 41 1966S)**. Sen. Larry Walker III (20th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Chairman Thompson (14th) committed to sponsoring the bill in the Senate.

Committee Recommendation: HB 25 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 41 1966S)

HB 33 (Rep. Lumsden, 12th, LC 41 1627) Weapons carry license; extension of time for the renewal of a license for certain service members serving on active duty outside of the state; provide

The Chair recognized Rep. Eddie Lumsden (12th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Lumsden (12th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public. No one offered additional testimony.

The Chair opened the floor for debate.

The Chair recognized Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd) who made a motion that **HB 33 Do Pass (LC 41 1627)**. Sen. Walker (20th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Greg Kirk (13th) was in attendance to commit to sponsoring the bill in the Senate.

Committee Recommendation: HB 33 DO PASS (LC 41 1627)

With no further business, Chairman Thompson (14th) adjourned the meeting at 9:43 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Sen. Bruce Thompson (14th), Chairman

/s/ Hallie Allen, Recording Secretary