

**2019 SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**Sen. Ben Watson M.D., Chairman**

District 1  
1326 Eisenhower Drive #2  
Savannah, GA 31406

**Sen. Dean Burke, Vice-Chairman**

District 11  
1500 East Shotwell Street  
Bainbridge, GA 39819

**Sen. Greg Kirk, Secretary**

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

**Sen. Gloria Butler**

District 55  
6241 Southland Trace  
Stone Mountain, GA 30087

**Sen. Bill Cowser**

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

**Sen. Greg Dolezal**

District 27  
5255 Harris Springs Dr.  
Cumming, GA 30040

**Sen. Steve Henson**

District 41  
3 Orchard Spring Drive  
Rome, GA 30165

**Sen. Chuck Hufstetler**

District 52  
3 Orchard Spring Drive  
Rome, GA 30165

**Sen. Lester Jackson**

District 2  
121-F State Capitol  
Atlanta, GA 30334

**Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick**

District 32  
2146 Roswell Rd.  
Marietta, GA 30062

**Sen. William Ligon, Jr.**

District 3  
158 Scranton Connector  
Brunswick, GA 31525

**Sen. Nan Orrock**

District 36  
1070 Delaware Avenue SE  
Atlanta, GA 30316

**Sen. Renee Unterman**

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

**Sen. Larry Walker III**

District 20  
1110 Washington St.  
Perry, GA 31406

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

### **Rules 2019 -2020 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 of 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 the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services**  
**Wednesday, January 30, 2019**

The Senate Committee on Health and Human Services met on Wednesday, January 30, 2019 at 3:00 p.m., in Room 450 of the Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Ben Watson (1st), Chairman  
Sen. Dean Burke (11th), Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Greg Kirk (13th), Secretary  
Sen. Gloria Butler (55th) (*Arrived Late*)  
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th)  
Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th)  
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd)  
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd)  
Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd) (*Arrived Late*)  
Sen. Nan Orrock (36th) (*Arrived Late*)  
Sen. Larry Walker, III (20th)

**NOTE:** Sen. Steve Henson (41st), Sen. Lester Jackson (2nd), and Sen. Renee Unterman (45th) were absent.

Chairman Watson (1st) called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. William Ligon, Jr., (3rd) arrived at 3:05 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Gloria Butler (55th) arrived at 3:05 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Nan Orrock (36th) arrived at 3:05 p.m.

Chairman Watson (1st) presented the Committee Rules. Sen. Kirk (13th) made a motion that the Committee Rules **Do Pass**. Sen. Burke (11th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The Rules appear on the preceding page.

Chairman Watson (1st) then presented the subcommittee assignments for each of the committee members.

Kathy Floyd, Executive Director of the Georgia Council on Aging, introduced Ginger Ragans, an employee with Legacy Link. Ginger Ragans gave a brief demonstration to the Committee regarding Assistive Technology.

Chairman Watson (1st) adjourned the meeting at 3:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Greg Kirk (13th), Secretary

/s/ Phyllis Williams, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services  
Wednesday, February 6, 2019**

The Senate Committee on Health and Human Services met on Wednesday, February 6, 2019 at 3:00 p.m., in Room 450 of the Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Ben Watson (1st), Chairman  
Sen. Dean Burke (11th), Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Greg Kirk (13th), Secretary  
Sen. Gloria Butler (55th) (*Arrived Late*)  
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th) (*Arrived Late*)  
Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th) (*Arrived Late*)  
Sen. Steve Henson (41st) (*Arrived Late*)  
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd)  
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd)  
Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd) (*Arrived Late*)  
Sen. Nan Orrock (36th)  
Sen. Renee Unterman (45th)  
Sen. Larry Walker, III (20th)

**NOTE:** Sen. Lester Jackson (2nd) was absent.

Chairman Watson (1st) called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Gloria Butler (55th) arrived at 3:02 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th ) arrived at 3:03 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Steve Henson (41st) arrived at 3:04 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th) arrived at 3:05 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. William Ligon Jr., (3rd) arrived at 3:05 p.m.

**SB 16 (Sen. Kirkpatrick, 32nd, LC 33 7504) “Interstate Medical Licensure Compact Act”**

The Chair recognized Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) 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:*

Derek Norton of the Medical Association of Georgia

Julie Windham of Navicent Health

Ethan James of Georgia Hospital Association

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Henson (41st) who made a motion **SB 16 Do Pass (LC 33 7504)**. Sen. Kirk (13th) seconded the motion. The motion passed 11-0.

Sen. Burke (11th), Sen. Kirk (13th), Sen. Butler (55th), Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Dolezal (27th), Sen. Henson (41st), Sen. Hufstetler (52nd), Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd), Sen. Ligon, Jr. (3rd), Sen. Orrock (36th), and Sen. Walker (20th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Unterman (45th) abstained from voting.

**Committee Recommendation: SB 16 DO PASS (LC 33 7504)**

Chairman Watson (1st) adjourned the meeting at 3:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Greg Kirk, (13th), Secretary

/s/ Phyllis Williams, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services  
Monday, February 11, 2019**

The Senate Committee on Health and Human Services met on Monday, February 11, 2019 at 3:00 p.m., in Room 450 of the Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Ben Watson (1st), Chairman  
Sen. Dean Burke (11th), Vice-Chairman (*Arrived Late*)  
Sen. Greg Kirk (13th), Secretary (*Arrived Late*)  
Sen. Gloria Butler (55th)  
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th)  
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd) (*Arrived Late*)  
Sen. Lester Jackson (2nd) (*Left Early*)  
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd)  
Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd)  
Sen. Nan Orrock (36th) (*Arrived Late*)

**NOTE:** Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th), Sen. Steve Henson (41st), Sen. Renee Unterman (45th), and Sen. Larry Walker, III (20th) were absent.

Chairman Watson, (1st) called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Nan Orrock (36th) arrived at 3:04 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd) arrived at 3:11 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Dean Burke (11th) arrived at 3:14 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Greg Kirk (13th) arrived at 3:16 p.m.

Dr. Dennis Ashley, Chairman of the Georgia Trauma Care Network Commission, presented The Georgia Trauma System: Annual Report to the Committee.

**NOTE:** Sen. Lester Jackson (2nd) left at 3:34 p.m.

Chairman Watson (1st) adjourned the meeting at 3:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Greg Kirk (13th), Secretary

/s/ Phyllis Williams, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services**  
**Wednesday, February 13, 2019**

The Senate Committee on Health and Human Services met on Wednesday, February 13, 2019 at 3:00 p.m., in Room 450 of the Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Ben Watson (1st), Chairman  
Sen. Greg Kirk (13th), Secretary  
Sen. Gloria Butler (55th)  
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th) (*Arrived Late*)  
Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th) (*Arrived Late*)  
Sen. Steve Henson (41st) (*Arrived Late*)  
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd)  
Sen. Lester Jackson (2nd) (*Arrived Late*)  
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd)  
Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd)  
Sen. Nan Orrock (36th)  
Sen. Renee Unterman (45th)  
Sen. Larry Walker, III (20th)

**NOTE:** Sen. Dean Burke (11th), Vice-Chairman, was absent.

Chairman Watson (1st) called the meeting to order at 3:07 p.m.

**NOTE:** Senator Greg Dolezal (27th) arrived at 3:07 p.m.

**NOTE:** Senator Lester Jackson (2nd) arrived at 3:22 p.m.

**NOTE:** Senator Steve Henson (41st) arrived at 3:22 p.m.

**NOTE:** Senator Bill Cowsert (46th) arrived at 3:34 p.m.

**SB 18 (Sen. Kirkpatrick, 32nd, LC 46 0017ER) "Direct Primary Care Act"**

The Chair recognized Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) 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:*

Tony West of Americans for Prosperity

Travis Klavohn, a Concerned Citizen

Derek Norton of Medical Association of Georgia

Michael Walker of Medical Association of Georgia

Robert Nelson of Georgia Chapter of Free Market Medical Association

Erinn Harris of Harris Internal Medicine

Melissa Black of Empower Family Medicine

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

**NOTE:** Sen. Unterman (45th) left at 3:13 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Unterman (45th) returned at 3:14 p.m.

Sen. Cowsert (46th) made a motion to amend the bill and Sen. Dolezal (27th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 12-0.

The Chair announced that the amendment would be prepared as a substitute and that a motion to recommend that the bill “do pass by substitute” was in order.

Sen. Henson (41st) made a motion SB 18 **Do Pass By Substitute (LC 33 7724S)** and Sen. Kirk (13th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 12-0.

**Committee Recommendation: SB 18 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 33 7724S)**

Chairman Watson (1st) adjourned the meeting at 4:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Greg Kirk (13th), Secretary

/s/ Phyllis Williams, Recording Secretary



**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services  
Tuesday, February 19, 2019**

The Senate Committee on Health and Human Services met on Tuesday, February 19, 2019 at 1:00 p.m., in Room 450 of the Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Ben Watson (1st), Chairman  
Sen. Dean Burke (11th), Vice Chairman  
Sen. Greg Kirk (13th), Secretary  
Sen. Gloria Butler (55th)  
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th)  
Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th)  
Sen. Steve Henson (41st)  
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd)  
Sen. Lester Jackson (2nd)  
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd)  
Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd)  
Sen. Nan Orrock, (36th)  
Sen. Renee Unterman, (45th)  
Sen. Larry Walker, III (20th)

Chairman Watson (1st) called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.

**SB 106 (Sen. Tillery, 19th, LC 33 7678-EC) “Patients First Act”**

The Chair recognized Sen. Blake Tillery (19th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Tillery (19th) and Blake FulenWider, the Chief Health Policy Officer of the Georgia Department of Community Health, presented the bill to the Committee.

**NOTE:** Sen. Henson (41st) left at 1:11 p.m.

**NOTE:** Senator Henson (41st) returned at 1:11 p.m.

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

*Testimony in favor of the Bill:*

Rutledge Forney of the Medical Association of Georgia  
Julie Windham of Navicent Health  
Ethan James of Georgia Hospital Association  
Kyle Wingfield of Georgia Public Policy Foundation  
Matt Hicks of Grady Health System  
Fay Fulton of Georgia Academy of Family Physicians  
Brandon Reese of Wellstar Health System  
Jimmie Lewis of Hometown Health  
Daniel Lanford of Georgia, a post-doctoral research fellow (Wanted to see amendments)  
Mary Daniels of American College of Physicians (Wanted to see amendments)

*Testimony in opposition to the Bill*

Laura Harker of Georgia Budget and Policy Institute  
Laura Colbert of Georgians for a Healthy Future

The Chair opened the floor for questions.

The Chair recognized Sen. Burke (11th) who made a motion **SB 106 Do Pass (LC 33 7678-EC)**. Sen. Hufstetler (52nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed 9-4.

Sen. Burke (11th), Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Dolezal (27th), Sen. Hufstetler (52nd), Sen. Kirk (13th), Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd), Sen. Ligon, Jr. (3rd), Sen. Unterman (45th) and Sen. Walker (20th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Butler (55th), Sen. Henson (41st), Sen. Jackson (2nd), and Sen. Orrock (36th) voted against the motion.

**Committee Recommendation: SB 106 DO PASS (LC 33 7678-EC)**

Chairman Watson (1st) adjourned the meeting at 2:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Greg Kirk (13th), Secretary

/s/ Phyllis Williams, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services**  
**Wednesday, February 20, 2019**

The Senate Committee on Health and Human Services met on Wednesday, February 20, 2019 at 3:00 p.m., in Room 450 of the Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Ben Watson (1st), Chairman  
Sen. Dean Burke (11th), Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Greg Kirk (13th), Secretary  
Sen. Gloria Butler (55th)  
Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th)  
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd)  
Sen. Lester Jackson (2nd)  
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd) (*Arrived Late*)  
Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd) (*Arrived Late*)  
Sen. Nan Orrock (36th)

**NOTE:** Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Sen. Steve Henson (41st), Sen. Renee Unterman (45th), and Sen. Larry Walker, III (20th) were absent.

Chairman Watson (1st) called the meeting to order at 3:07 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd) arrived at 3:08 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd) arrived at 3:08 p.m.

**HB 62 (Rep. Cooper, 43rd, LC 33 7655S) “Margie’s Law”; enact**

The Chair recognized Rep. Sharon Cooper (43rd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Cooper (43rd) and Margie Singleton presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for questions.

Sen. Jackson (2nd) made a motion HB 62 **Do Pass (LC 33 7655S)** and Sen. Orrock (36th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 9-0.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 62 DO PASS (LC 33 7655S)**

**SB 71 (Sen. Watson, 1st, LC 33 7714S) Hospital Authority; sale or lease of a hospital; provisions; revise**

The Chair recognized Vice-Chairman Burke (11th) to briefly preside as Chairman.

The Vice Chair recognized Sen. Watson (1st) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Watson (1st) and Skin Edge presented the bill to the Committee.

The Vice-Chair opened the floor for questions.

Sen. Jackson (2nd) made a motion SB 71 **Do Pass By Substitute (LC 33 7714S)** and Sen. Kirk (13th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 9-0.

**Committee Recommendation: SB 71 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 33 7714S)**

Sen. Watson (1st) resumed the position of Chairman.

Dr. Bijal B. Shah, M.D., a Grady Hospital Emergency Medical Physician, gave a brief presentation to the committee regarding HIV testing.

Chairman Watson (1st) adjourned the meeting at 3:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Greg Kirk (13th), Secretary

/s/ Phyllis Williams, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services  
Monday, February 25, 2019**

The Senate Committee on Health and Human Services met on Monday, February 25, 2019 at 3:00 p.m., in Room 450 of the Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Ben Watson (1st), Chairman  
Sen. Dean Burke (11th), Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Greg Kirk (13th), Secretary (*Left Early*)  
Sen. Gloria Butler (55th)  
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th) (*Arrived Late*)  
Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th) (*Left Early*)  
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd)  
Sen. Lester Jackson (2nd) (*Left Early*)  
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd)  
Sen. Nan Orrock (36th)  
Sen. Renee Unterman (45th) (*Arrived Late; Left Early*)  
Sen. Larry Walker, III (20th) (*Arrived Late; Left Early*)

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

Chairman Watson (1st) called the meeting to order at 3:07 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Larry Walker (20th) arrived at 3:08 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Renee Unterman (45th) arrived at 3:09 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th) arrived at 3:27 p.m.

**HB 166 (Rep. Silcox, 52nd, LC 33 7712S) Genetic Counselors Act; enact**

The Chair recognized Rep. Deborah Silcox (52nd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Silcox (52nd) and Katie Lang presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for questions and amendment.

**NOTE:** Sen. Jackson (2nd) left at 3:09 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Jackson (2nd) returned at 3:11 p.m.

Sen. Orrock (36th) made a motion to amend the bill and Sen. Jackson (2nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 11-0.

Rep. Silcox offered an amendment. Sen. Jackson (2nd) made a motion to amend the bill and Sen. Orrock (36th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 11-0.

The Chair announced that the amendment would be prepared as a substitute and that a motion to recommend that the bill “do pass by substitute” was in order.

Sen. Burke (11th) made a motion **HB 166 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 33 7806S)** and Sen. Kirk (13th) seconded the motion. The motion passed 11-1.

Sen. Dolezal (27th) voted against the bill.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 166 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 33 7806S)**

**HB 158 (Rep. Silcox, 52nd, LC 33 7622) Medical assistance; Medicaid recipients have the same access to antiretroviral regimens used to treat HIV and AIDS as to those included in the formulary established for the Georgia AIDS Drugs Assistance Programs; provide**

The Chair recognized Rep. Deborah Silcox (52nd) for the purpose of presenting the bill, which he indicated will be hearing only. Rep. Silcox (52nd) and Chris Bryce presented the bill to the Committee.

**NOTE:** Sen. Walker (20th) left at 3:39 p.m.

The Chair opened the floor for questions and debate.

**NOTE:** Sen. Jackson (2nd) left at 3:43 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Kirk (13th) left at 3:45 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Dolezal (27th) left at 3:47 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Unterman (45th) left at 3:48 p.m.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 158 (LC 33 7622) No action was taken.**

Chairman Watson (1st) adjourned the meeting at 4:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Greg Kirk (13th), Secretary

/s/ Phyllis Williams, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services**  
**Wednesday, February 27, 2019**

The Senate Committee on Health and Human Services met on Wednesday, February 27, 2019 at 3:00 p.m., in Room 450 of the Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Ben Watson (1st), Chairman  
Sen. Greg Kirk (13th), Secretary  
Sen. Gloria Butler (55th)  
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th) (*Left Early*)  
Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th)  
Sen. Steve Henson (41st) (*Left Early*)  
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd)  
Sen. Lester Jackson (2nd) (*Arrived Late*)  
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd)  
Sen. Nan Orrock (36th)  
Sen. Renee Unterman (45th) (*Arrived Late*)  
Sen. Larry Walker, III (20th)

**NOTE:** Sen. Dean Burke (11th), Vice-Chairman, and Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd) were absent.

Chairman Watson (1st) called the meeting to order at 3:12 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Renee Unterman (45th) arrived at 3:14 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Lester Jackson (2nd) arrived at 3:19 p.m.

**SB 109 (Sen. Walker, 20th, LC 33 7824S) Advanced Practice Registered Nurse; delegation by a physician; order radiographic imaging tests in non-life-threatening situations; authorize**

The Chair recognized Sen. Larry Walker (20th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Walker (20th) 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:*

Desireé Clement of the Georgia Coalition of APRNs  
Tim Kibler of Georgia Alliance Hospitals

*Testimony in opposition to the Bill:*

Chuck McMullen of Georgia Academy of Family Physicians  
Becky Ryles of Management Service Network

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Henson (41st) who made a motion **SB 109 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 33 7824S)**. Sen. Orrock (36th) seconded the motion. The motion passed 9-2.

Sen. Kirk (13th), Sen. Butler (55th), Sen. Dolezal (27th), Sen. Henson (41st), Sen. Hufstetler (52nd), Sen. Orrock (36th), Sen. Unterman (45th) and Sen. Walker (20th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Cowsert (46th) and Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) voted against the motion.

**Committee Recommendation: SB 109 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 33 7824S)**

**SB 168** (Sen. Kirk, 13th, LC 33 7774) Nurses; certain definitions; revise

The Chair recognized Sen. Greg Kirk (13th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Kirk (13th) 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:*

Anna Adams of the Georgia Hospital Association

Julie Windham of Navicent Health

Tim Kibler of Georgia Alliance Hospitals

The Chair opened the floor for questions.

The Chair recognized Sen. Hufstetler (52nd) who made a motion **SB 168 Do Pass (LC 33 7774)**. Sen. Orrock (36th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Recommendation: SB 168 DO PASS (LC 33 7774)**

**SB 184** (Sen. Kirk, 13th, LC 33 7782) State Employees' Health Insurance Plan; services covered and furnished by a federally qualified health center are reimbursed at no less than the Medicare maximum; provide

The Chair recognized Sen. Greg Kirk (13th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Kirk (13th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for questions.

Sen. Kirk (13th) offered an amendment.

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

*Testimony in favor of the Bill:*

Shea Ross-Smith of Kaiser Permanente (only with amendment)

Josh Mackey of Kaiser Permanente (only with amendment)

Becky Ryles of Community Health Center

The Chair recognized Sen. Kirk (13th) who made a motion to table SB 184. Sen. Hufstetler (52nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed 10-1.

Sen. Kirk (13th), Sen. Butler (55th), Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Dolezal (27th), Sen. Henson (41st), Sen. Hufstetler (52nd), Sen. Lester Jackson (2nd), Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd), Sen. Orrock (36th), and Sen. Walker (20th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Unterman (45th) voted against the motion.

**Committee Recommendation: TABLE SB 184 (LC 33 7782)**



**SB 189 (Sen. Cowsert, 46th, LC 34 5522) Health Records; costs for copying medical records; provide**

The Chair recognized Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Cowsert (46th) presented the bill to the Committee.

**NOTE:** Sen. Hufstetler (52nd) left at 4:02 p.m.

The Chair opened the floor for questions.

**NOTE:** Sen. Kirk (13th) left at 4:14 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Jackson (2nd) left at 4:15 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Henson (41st) left at 4:17 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Kirk (13th) returned at 4:17 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Jackson (2nd) returned at 4:20 p.m.

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

*Testimony in favor of the Bill:*

Andrew Conn of the Georgia Trial Lawyers Association

*Testimony in opposition to the Bill:*

Misty Holcomb of CLOX Healthcare

Trey Reese of the Medical Association of Georgia

David Henson of Resurgens Orthopedics

Ethan James of Georgia Hospital Association

Tim Kibler of Georgia Alliance Hospitals

Greg Reybold of Georgia Public Health Association

The Chair recognized Sen. Unterman (45th) who made a motion **to Table SB 189 (LC 34 5522)**. Sen. Orrock (36th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Recommendation: TABLE SB 189 (LC 34 5522)**

**SB 121 (Sen. Walker, 20th, LC 33 7700) Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Data Base; length of time prescription information is retained from two years to five years; increase**

The Chair recognized Sen. Larry Walker (20th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Walker (20th), Jim Mooney of the Georgia Medicaid Fraud Control Unit, and Sheila Pierce of the Georgia Department of Public Health presented the bill to the Committee.

**NOTE:** Sen. Cowsert (46th) left at 4:45 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Kirk (13th) left at 4:45 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Kirk (13th) returned at 4:49 p.m.

The Chair opened the floor for questions and debate.

**NOTE:** Sen. Hufstetler (52nd) returned at 4:55 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Dolezal (27th) left at 4:59 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Dolezal (27th) returned at 5:00 p.m.

*Testimony in favor of the Bill:*

Randy Rizer, M.D. of the Medical Association of Georgia

**Committee Recommendation: SB 121 (LC 33 7700) No action was taken.**

Chairman Watson (1st) adjourned the meeting at 5:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Greg Kirk (13th), Secretary

/s/ Phyllis Williams, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services  
Thursday, February 28, 2019**

The Senate Committee on Health and Human Services met on Thursday, February 28, 2019 at 8:00 a.m., in Room 450 of the Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Ben Watson (1st), Chairman  
Sen. Dean Burke (11th), Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Greg Kirk (13th), Secretary  
Sen. Gloria Butler (55th)  
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th) (*Arrived Late*)  
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd)  
Sen. Lester Jackson (2nd)  
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd)  
Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd)  
Sen. Nan Orrock (36th) (*Arrived Late*)  
Sen. Renee Unterman (45th)  
Sen. Larry Walker, III (20th)

**NOTE:** Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th) and Sen. Steve Henson (41st) were absent.

Chairman Watson (1st) called the meeting to order at 8:07 a.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Nan Orrock (36th) arrived at 8:25 a.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th) arrived at 8:44 a.m.

**SB 184 (Sen. Kirk, 13th, LC 33 7845S) State Employees' Health Insurance Plan; services covered and furnished by a federally qualified health center are reimbursed at no less than the Medicare maximum; provide**

The Chair recognized Sen. Greg Kirk (13th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Kirk (13th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for questions.

The Chair recognized Sen. Unterman (45th) who made a motion **SB 184 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 33 7845S)**. Sen. Butler (55th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Recommendation: SB 184 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 33 7845S)**

**SB 121 (Sen. Walker, 20th, LC 33 7844S) Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Data Base; length of time prescription information is retained from two years to five years; increase**

The Chair recognized Sen. Larry Walker (20th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Walker (20th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for questions.

The Chair recognized Sen. Unterman (45th) who made a motion **SB 121 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 33 7844S)**. Sen. Burke (11th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Recommendation: SB 121 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 33 7844S)**

**SB 195 (Sen. Hufstetler, 52nd, LC 33 7751) “Prescription Drug Benefits Freedom of Information and Consumer Protection Act”**

The Chair recognized Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Hufstetler (52nd) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for questions.

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

*Testimony in favor of the Bill:*

Bethany Sherrer of the Medical Association of Georgia

The Chair recognized Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) who made a motion **SB 195 Do Pass (LC 33 7751)**. Sen. Unterman (45th) seconded the motion.

The Chair recognized Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) who made a motion to withdraw the motion **SB 195 Do Pass (LC 33 7751)**. Sen. Unterman (45th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Sen. Hufstetler (52nd) offered an amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Unterman (45th) who made a motion to amend the bill. Sen. Burke (11th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair announced that the amendment would be prepared as a substitute and that a motion to recommend that the bill “do pass by substitute” was in order.

The Chair recognized Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) who made a motion **SB 195 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 33 7856S)**. Sen. Jackson (2nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Recommendation: SB 195 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 33 7856S)**

**SB 207 (Sen. Burke, 11th, LC 33 7786) Georgia Board for Physician Workforce; change name; board's membership; revise**

The Chair recognized Sen. Dean Burke (11th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Burke (11th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for questions.

The Chair recognized Sen. Kirk (13th) who made a motion **SB 207 Do Pass (LC 33 7786)**. Sen. Unterman (45th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Recommendation: SB 207 DO PASS (LC 33 7786)**

**SB 113 (Sen. Tippins, 37th, LC 33 7847S) Hospitals and Other Health Care Facilities; nursing homes and personal care homes; backup power sources in the event of power outage; require**

The Chair recognized Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Tippins (37th) 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:*

Skin Edge of Senior Living Association (support with amendments)

*Testimony in opposition to the Bill*

Russel Carlson of Georgia Healthcare Association

Stephen Bush with Ethica

Steven Neff with Assisted Living Association of Georgia

The Chair opened the floor for questions.

The Chair recognized Sen. Walker (20th) who made a motion **to Table SB 113 (LC 33 7847S)**. Sen. Unterman (45th) seconded the motion. The motion passed 8-3.

Sen. Kirk (13th), Sen. Butler (55<sup>th</sup>), Sen. Jackson (2nd), Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd), Sen. Ligon, Jr. (3rd), Sen. Unterman (45th), and Sen. Walker (20th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Hufstetler (52nd), and Sen. Orrock (36th) voted against the motion.

**Committee Recommendation: TABLE SB 113 (LC 33 7847S)**

Chairman Watson (1st) adjourned the meeting at 9:08 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Greg Kirk (13th), Secretary

/s/ Phyllis Williams, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services  
Monday, March 4, 2019**

The Senate Committee on Health and Human Services met on Monday, March 4, 2019 at 8:00 a.m., in Room 450 of the Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Ben Watson (1st), Chairman  
Sen. Dean Burke (11th), Vice Chairman  
Sen. Greg Kirk (13th), Secretary  
Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th)  
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd)  
Sen. Lester Jackson (2nd)  
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd)  
Sen. Larry Walker, III (20th)

**NOTE:** Sen. Gloria Butler (55th), Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Sen. Steve Henson (41st), Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd), Sen. Nan Orrock (36th), and Sen. Renee Unterman (45th) were absent.

Chairman Watson (1st) called the meeting to order at 8:14 a.m.

**SB 225 (Sen. Walker, 20th, LC 48 0087) Juvenile Code; in conformity with the federal Social Security Act and the Family First Prevention Services Act; bring provisions**

The Chair recognized Sen. Larry Walker (20th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Walker (20th), Tom Rawlings, and Chris Hempfling presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for questions.

Sen. Kirk (13th) made a motion SB 225 **Do Pass (LC 48 0087)** and Sen. Hufstetler (52nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Recommendation: SB 225 DO PASS (LC 48 0087)**

Chairman Watson (1st) adjourned the meeting at 8:21 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Greg Kirk, (13th), Secretary

/s/ Phyllis Williams, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services  
Monday, March 11, 2019**

The Senate Committee on Health and Human Services met on Monday, March 11, 2019 at 3:00 p.m., in Room 450 of the Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Ben Watson (1st), Chairman  
Sen. Dean Burke (11th), Vice-Chairman (*Arrived Late*)  
Sen. Greg Kirk (13th), Secretary (*Arrived Late*)  
Sen. Gloria Butler (55th)  
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th) (*Arrived Late*)  
Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th)  
Sen. Steve Henson (41st) (*Arrived Late*)  
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd)  
Sen. Lester Jackson (2nd) (*Arrived Late*)  
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd)  
Sen. Nan Orrock (36th)  
Sen. Renee Unterman (45th)

**NOTE:** Sen William Ligon, Jr. (3rd) and Sen. Larry Walker, III (20th) were absent.

Chairman Watson (1st) called the meeting to order at 3:07 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Steve Henson (41st) arrived at 3:09 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Dean Burke (11th) arrived at 3:09 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th) arrived at 3:11 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Lester Jackson (2nd) arrived at 3:11 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Greg Kirk (13th) arrived at 3:12 p.m.

**HB 300 (Rep. Smith, 133rd, LC 46 0120S) Health; redesignate continuing care retirement communities as life plan communities**

The Chair recognized Rep. Vance Smith (133rd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Smith (133rd) and Tom Bauer of Leading Age Georgia presented the bill and an amendment to the Committee.

*Testimony in favor of the Bill:*

Russel Carlson of Georgia Healthcare Association

Kevin Isakson of Isakson Living

Ginny Helms of Leading Age Georgia

The Chair opened the floor for questions.

**NOTE:** Sen. Greg Kirk (13th) left at 3:19 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd) left at 3:19 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Dean Burke (11th) left at 3:31 p.m.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 300 (LC 46 0120S) No action was taken.**

**HB 374 (Rep. LaHood, 175th, LC 33 7784S) Health; administer medications to residents under hospice care pursuant to a physician's written orders; authorize certified medication aides**

The Chair recognized Rep. John LaHood (175th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. LaHood (175th) presented the bill to the Committee.

*Testimony in favor of the Bill:*

Ginny Helms of Leading Age Georgia

**NOTE:** Sen. Greg Kirk (13th) returned at 3:35 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd) returned at 3:35 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Dean Burke (11th) returned at 3:35 p.m.

The Chair opened the floor for questions.

Sen. Henson (41st) made a motion **HB 374 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 33 7784S)** and Sen. Hufstetler (52nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 374 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 33 7784S)**

Chairman Watson (1st) adjourned the meeting at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Greg Kirk (13th), Secretary

/s/ Phyllis Williams, Recording Secretary



**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services  
Wednesday, March 13, 2019**

The Senate Committee on Health and Human Services met on Wednesday, March 13, 2019 at 3:00 p.m., in Room 450 of the Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Ben Watson (1st), Chairman  
Sen. Dean Burke (11th), Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Greg Kirk (13th), Secretary  
Sen. Gloria Butler (55th) (*Arrived Late*)  
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th) (*Arrived Late*)  
Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th)  
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd) (*Left Early*)  
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd)  
Sen. Nan Orrock (36th) (*Arrived Late*)  
Sen. Renee Unterman (45th)  
Sen. Larry Walker, III (20th)

**NOTE:** Sen. Steve Henson (41st), Sen. Lester Jackson (2nd), and Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd) were absent.

Chairman Watson (1st) called the meeting to order at 3:13 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Nan Orrock (36th) arrived at 3:14 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Gloria Butler (55th) arrived at 3:19 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th) arrived at 3:22 p.m.

**[HB 300](#) (Rep. Smith, 133rd, LC 46 0120S) Health; redesignate continuing care retirement communities as life plan communities**

The Chair recognized Rep. Vance Smith (133rd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Smith (133rd) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for questions.

Sen. Unterman (45th) made a motion **HB 300 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 46 0120S)** and Sen. Kirk (13th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 300 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 46 0120S)**

**[SR 276](#) (Sen. Unterman, 45th, LC 119 0317) Congress; eliminate five-month waiting period for disability insurance benefits for individuals living with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS); urge**

The Chair recognized Sen. Renee Unterman (45th) for the purpose of presenting the resolution. Sen. Unterman (45th) presented the resolution to the Committee.

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

*Testimony in favor of the Resolution:*

Sheila Humberstone with ALS Association

The Chair opened the floor for questions.

The Chair recognized Sen. Orrock (36th) who made a motion SR 276 **Do Pass (LC 119 0317)**. Sen. Hufstetler (52nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Recommendation: SR 276 DO PASS (LC 119 0317)**

**HB 514 (Rep. Tanner, 9th, LC 33 7947S) Georgia Mental Health Reform and Innovation Commission; create**

The Chair recognized Rep. Kevin Tanner (9th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Tanner (175th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for questions.

*Testimony in favor of the Bill:*

Kathy Colbenson of Chris180

Debra Nesbit with the Association of County Commissioners Georgia

Cindy Levi with the Georgia Association of Community Service Boards

Jewell Gooding with the Mental Health Association of Georgia

**NOTE:** Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd) left at 3:38 p.m.

Senator Unterman (45th) offered an amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Unterman (45th) who made a motion to amend the bill. Sen. Kirk (13th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Senator Orrock (36th) offered an amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Orrock (36th) who made a motion to amend the bill. Sen. Kirk (13th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Sen. Unterman (45th) made a motion HB 514 **Do Pass By Substitute (LC 33 7947S)** and Sen. Dolezal (27th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 514 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 33 7947S)**

Chairman Watson (1st) adjourned the meeting at 3:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Greg Kirk (13th), Secretary

/s/ Phyllis Williams, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services  
Monday, March 18, 2019**

The Senate Committee on Health and Human Services met on Monday, March 18, 2019 at 3:00 p.m., in Room 450 of the Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Ben Watson (1st), Chairman  
Sen. Dean Burke (11th), Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Greg Kirk (13th), Secretary  
Sen. Gloria Butler (55th)  
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th) (*Arrived Late*)  
Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th) (*Arrived Late*)  
Sen. Steve Henson (41st) (*Arrived Late*)  
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd)  
Sen. Lester Jackson (2nd) (*Arrived Late*)  
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd)  
Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd) (*Arrived Late*)  
Sen. Nan Orrock (36th)  
Sen. Renee Unterman (45th)  
Sen. Larry Walker, III (20th) (*Arrived Late*)

Chairman Watson (1st) called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. William Ligon, Jr., (3rd) arrived at 3:08 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Steve Henson (41st) arrived at 3:10 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th) arrived at 3:16 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th) arrived at 3:19 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Lester Jackson (2nd) arrived at 3:21 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Larry Walker (20th) arrived at 3:22 p.m.

**[HB 483](#) (Rep. Stephens, 164th, LC 28 9248ER) Controlled substances; Schedules I, IV, and V; change certain provisions**

The Chair recognized Rep. Butch Parrish (158th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Parrish (158th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for questions.

Sen. Burke (11th) made a motion **HB 483 Do Pass (LC 28 9248ER)** and Sen. Orrock (36th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 483 DO PASS (LC 28 9248ER)**

**[HB 26](#) (Rep. Belton, 112th, LC 41 1714S) Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact; enter into an interstate compact**

The Chair recognized Rep. Dave Belton (112th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Belton (112th) and Dr. Anita Brown presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for questions.

Sen. Kirk (13th) made a motion **HB 26 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 41 1714S)** and Sen. Orrock (36th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 26 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 41 1714S)**

**HB 39** (Rep. Belton, 112th, LC 41 1686) **Physical Therapy Licensure Compact Act; enter into an interstate compact**

The Chair recognized Rep. Dave Belton (112th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Belton (112th) and Ryan Balmes, President of the Physical Therapy Association of Georgia, presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for questions.

Senator Kirkpatrick (32nd) offered an amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) who made a motion to amend the bill. Sen. Dolezal (27th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair announced that the amendment would be prepared as a substitute and that a motion to recommend that the bill “do pass by substitute” was in order.

Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) made a motion **HB 39 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 46 0157S)** and Sen. Hufstetler (52nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 39 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 46 0157S)**

**HB 217** (Rep. Gaines, 117th, LC 33 7647) **Crimes and offenses; employees and agents of syringe services programs are not subject to certain offenses relating to hypodermic syringes and needles; provide**

The Chair recognized Rep. Houston Gaines (117th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Gaines (117th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for questions.

*Testimony in favor of the Bill:*

Jocelyn Whitfield of Grady

Mojgan Zare of Atlanta Harm Reduction Coalition

Maxin Wright of Aniz Inc.

The Chair opened the floor for questions.

Sen. Burke (11th) made a motion **HB 217 Do Pass (LC 33 7647)** and Sen. Hufstetler (52nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 217 DO PASS (LC 33 7647)**

Chairman Watson (1st) adjourned the meeting at 3:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Greg Kirk, (13th), Secretary

/s/ Phyllis Williams, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services  
Wednesday, March 20, 2019**

The Senate Committee on Health and Human Services met on Wednesday, March 20, 2019 at 3:00 p.m., in Room 450 of the Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Ben Watson (1st), Chairman  
Sen. Dean Burke (11th), Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Greg Kirk (13th), Secretary  
Sen. Gloria Butler (55th)  
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th) (*Arrived Late; Left Early*)  
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd) (*Left Early*)  
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd)  
Sen. Nan Orrock (36th) (*Arrived Late*)  
Sen. Renee Unterman (45th)  
Sen. Larry Walker, III (20th)

**NOTE:** Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th), Sen. Steve Henson (41st), Sen. Lester Jackson (2nd) and Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd) were absent.

Chairman Watson (1st) called the meeting to order at 3:08 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Nan Orrock (36th) arrived at 3:11 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th) arrived at 3:15 p.m.

**HB 290 (Rep. Cooper, 43rd, LC 46 0103S) Health; pilot program to provide preexposure assistance to persons at risk of HIV infection; establish**

The Chair recognized Rep. Sharon Cooper (43rd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Cooper (43rd) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for questions.

*Testimony in favor of the Bill:*

Devin Ward with the Black Futurists Group

The Chair recognized Megan Andrews with the Department of Public Health to answer the questions of the Committee.

Sen. Kirk (13th) made a motion **HB 290 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 46 0103S)** and Sen. Hufstetler (52nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 290 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 46 0103S)**

**HB 345 (Rep. Cooper, 43rd, LC 33 7989S) Penal institutions; pregnant female inmates or a female inmate who is in the immediate postpartum period; provide prohibited practices**

The Chair recognized Rep. Sharon Cooper (43rd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Cooper (43rd) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for questions.

**NOTE:** Senator Dean Burke left at 3:37 p.m.

*Testimony in favor of the Bill:*

Devin Ward of the Black Futurists Group  
Carol Hayes of the American College of Nurses-Midwives  
Kyera Singleton of the American Civil Liberties Union  
Marissa Dodson of the Southern Center for Human Rights  
Caryn Hanrahan of Healthy Mother's and Healthy Babies  
Pamela Winn of Restore Her  
Christine Richardson, a Correctional Healthcare Specialist  
Terry Norris of Georgia's Sheriff Association

The Chair opened the floor for questions.

**NOTE:** Senator Bill Cowsert (46th) left at 4:02 p.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Kirk (13th) who made a motion to **Table HB 345 (LC 33 7989S)**. Sen. Unterman (45th) seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-3.

Sen. Kirk (13th), Sen. Hufstetler (52nd), Sen. Unterman (45th), and Sen. Walker (20th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Butler 55th), Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd), and Sen. Orrock (36th) voted against the motion.

**Committee Recommendation: TABLE HB 345 (LC 33 7989S)**

**HB 323 (Rep. Knight, 130th, LC 33 7974S) Insurance; administration of claims by pharmacy benefit managers; revise provisions**

The Chair recognized Rep. David Knight (130th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Knight (130th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for questions.

**NOTE:** Sen. Dean Burke (11th) returned at 4:10 p.m.

Sen. Walker (20th) offered an amendment.

**NOTE:** Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd) left at 4:11 p.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Walker (20th) who made a motion to amend the bill. Sen. Kirk (13th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair announced that the amendment would be prepared as a substitute and that a motion to recommend that the bill "do pass by substitute" was in order.

Sen. Kirk (13th) made a motion **HB 323 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 33 7991S)** and Sen. Unterman (45th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 323 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 33 7991S)**

Chairman Watson (1st) adjourned the meeting at 4:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Greg Kirk (13th), Secretary

/s/ Phyllis Williams, Recording Secretary



**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services  
Monday, March 25, 2019**

The Senate Committee on Health and Human Services met on Monday, March 25, 2019 at 5:00 p.m., in Room 450 of the Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Ben Watson (1st), Chairman  
Sen. Dean Burke (11th), Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Greg Kirk (13th), Secretary  
Sen. Gloria Butler (55th)  
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th) (*Arrived Late*)  
Sen. Steve Henson (41st) (*Arrived Late*)  
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd)  
Sen. Lester Jackson (2nd) (*Arrived Late*)  
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd)  
Sen. Nan Orrock (36th)  
Sen. Larry Walker, III (20th) (*Arrived Late*)

**NOTE:** Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th), Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd), and Sen. Renee Unterman (45th) were absent.

Chairman Watson (1st) called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Lester Jackson (2nd) arrived at 5:04 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Steve Henson (41st) arrived at 5:06 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Larry Walker (20th) arrived at 5:06 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th) arrived at 5:20 p.m.

**[HB 551](#) (Rep. Hill, 3rd, LC 28 9316S) **Controlled substances; kratom; provisions****

The Chair recognized Rep. Dewayne Hill (3rd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Hill (3rd) and Rep. Jones (91st) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for questions.

*Testimony in favor of the Bill:*

Brad Miller, a consumer  
Mac Haddow of the American Kratom Association  
Cam Okon, a consumer  
Joe Turner, a consumer  
Leonord Rodde, a consumer

Sen. Burke (11th) made a motion **HB 551 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 28 9316S)** and Sen. Kirk (13th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 551 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 28 9316S)**

**[HB 345](#) (Rep. Cooper, 43rd, LC 33 8004S) **Penal institutions; pregnant female inmates or a female inmate who is in the immediate postpartum period; provide prohibited practices****

The Chair recognized Rep. Sharon Cooper (43rd) for the purpose of presenting the bill and amendments. Rep. Cooper (43rd) presented the bill and amendments to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for questions.

Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) made a motion **HB 345 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 33 8004S)** and Sen. Kirk (13th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 345 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 33 8004S)**

**HB 187** (Rep. Dempsey, 13th, LC 33 7623) **Community Health, Department of; pilot program to provide coverage for the treatment and management of obesity and related conditions; provide**

The Chair recognized Rep. Katie Dempsey (13th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Dempsey (13th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for questions.

Sen. Hufstetler (52nd) made a motion **HB 187 Do Pass (LC 33 7623)** and Sen. Cowser (46th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 187 DO PASS (LC 33 7623)**

**HB 233** (Rep. Knight, 130th, LC 33 7979S) **Pharmacy Anti-Steering and Transparency Act; enact**

The Chair recognized Rep. David Knight (130th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Knight (130th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for questions.

*Testimony in favor of the Bill:*

Jennifer Shannon, a Pharmacist

J. Ross Hays, a Pharmacy Technician

D. Scott Bass, a Citizen

Greg Reybold of the Georgia Pharmacy Association

Loren Pierce, a Pharmacist

Andy Lord of the Georgia Society of Clinical Oncology

*Testimony in opposition to the Bill*

Caroline Womack of the PBM Association

Glen Smyth of CVS Health

Turkesia Robertson-Jones of CareSource

Jesse Weathington of the Georgia Association of Health Plans

The chair recognized Rep. Knight (130<sup>th</sup>) and Greg Reybold for the purpose of answering the questions of the Committee.

Sen. Kirk (13th) made a motion **HB 233 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 33 7979S)** and Sen. Hufstetler (52nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 233 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 33 7979S)**

Chairman Watson (1st) adjourned the meeting at 6:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Greg Kirk (13th), Secretary

/s/ Phyllis Williams, Recording Secretary