

**THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS, MILITARY, AND HOMELAND SECURITY
2020 ROSTER**

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. John Albers, Ex-Officio

District 56
101 Vickery St
Roswell, GA 30075

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
2146 Roswell Rd.
Suite 108895
Marietta, GA 30062

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 3140

THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS, MILITARY, AND HOMELAND SECURITY
2020 RULES

1. All meetings of the Committee shall be open to the public in accordance with Senate Rule [15.1].
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
Tuesday, February 4, 2020**

The Senate Committee on Veterans, Military, and Homeland Security met on Tuesday, February 4, 2020 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. Ed Harbison (15th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Tonya Anderson (43rd) (*Arrived late*)
Sen. Zahra Karinshak (48th)
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd)
Sen. Michael ‘Doc’ Rhett (33rd)
Sen. Emanuel Jones (10th)
Sen. Ben Watson (1st) (Ex-Officio)
Sen. Larry Walker III (20th) (Ex-Officio)

NOTE: Sen. Mike Dugan (30th), Secretary, was absent.

Chairman Thompson (14th) called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m.

The Chair recognized Vice-Chair Harbison (15th) for the purpose of presiding as Chairman.

SB 316 (Sen. Thompson, 14th, LC 36 4148) Military Spouses; licensed in other states to practice certain professions; obtain a license by endorsement to practice in this state; provide

The Vice-Chair recognized Sen. Thompson (14Th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Thompson (14th) presented the bill to the Committee. Marc Hyden, Director of State Government Affairs of R Street Institute, served as a subject matter expert on the bill.

NOTE: Sen. Anderson (43rd) arrived at 2:21 p.m.

The Vice-Chair opened the floor for debate.

Committee Recommendation: SB 316 (LC 36 4148) No action was taken.

Sen. Thompson (14th) resumed position as Chair.

SB 268 (Sen. Jackson, 2nd, LC 48 0114) Notaries Public; persons for whom notaries perform notarial acts; valid Veterans Health Identification Card; provide

The Chair recognized Sen. Lester Jackson (2nd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Jackson (2nd) 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:

Ret. Major Anthony Phillips

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:

None

The Chair opened the floor for debate.

The Chair recognized Comm. Mike Roby, Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Veterans Services, for comments on the process of veterans receiving a Veteran Health Identification Card (VHIC).

The Chair recognized Sen. Jones (10th) who made a motion that **SB 268 Do Pass (LC 48 0114)**. Sen. Anderson (43rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SB 268 DO PASS (LC 48 0114)

SB 275 (Sen. Jackson, 2nd, LC 47 0096) Disabled Veterans; applicability to all veterans and their spouses; expand

The Chair recognized Sen. Jackson (2nd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Jackson (2nd) 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:

Ret. Major Anthony Phillips

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:

None

The Chair opened the floor for debate.

Committee Recommendation: SB 275 (LC 47 0096) No action was taken.

Chairman Thompson (14th) adjourned the meeting at 2:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

/s/ Jenna Purpura, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Veterans, Military, and Homeland Security
Friday, February 21, 2020

The Senate Committee on Veterans, Military, and Homeland Security met on Friday, February 21, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. in Room 310 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Bruce Thompson (14th), Chairman
Sen. Ed Harbison (15th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Mike Dugan (30th), Secretary
Sen. Tonya Anderson (43rd) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Zahra Karinshak (48th)
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Michael ‘Doc’ Rhett (33rd)
Sen. Emanuel Jones (10th)

NOTE: Sen. John Albers (56th) was appointed to the Senate Committee on Veterans, Military and Homeland Security, as an Ex-Officio member, by the Committee on Assignments for the remainder of the 2020 Legislative Session. A copy of the letter of appointment is attached.

NOTE: Sen. John Albers (56th), Sen. Larry Walker III (20th), and Sen. Ben Watson (1st) were absent.

Chairman Thompson (14th) called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

The Chair recognized Vice-Chair Harbison (15th) for the purpose of presiding as Chairman.

[SB 316](#) (Sen. Thompson, 14th, LC 36 4148) Military Spouses; licensed in other states to practice certain professions; obtain a license by endorsement to practice in this state; provide

The Vice-Chair recognized Sen. Thompson (48th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Thompson (14th) presented the bill to the Committee. Marc Hyden, Director of State Government Affairs of R Street Institute, served as a subject matter expert on the bill.

NOTE: Sen. Anderson (43rd) and Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) arrived at 1:06 p.m.

The Vice-Chair opened the floor for debate.

The Chair recognized Scott Lofranco, Government Affairs General Counsel and Vice President at the Georgia Dental Association, for comments on Dental Board certifications.

The Chair recognized Sen. Dugan (30th) who made a motion that **SB 316 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 36 4286S)**. Sen. Anderson (43rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SB 316 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 36 4286S)

Sen. Thompson (14th) resumed position as Chair.

Chairman Thompson (14th) adjourned the meeting at 1:17 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

/s/ Jenna Purpura, Recording Secretary



OFFICE OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

240 STATE CAPITOL
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334

GEOFF DUNCAN
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

February 19, 2020

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

Dear Mr. Cook,

In accordance with the Senate Rules, and in agreement with the Senate Committee on Assignments, I hereby appoint **Senator John Albers** to serve as an **Ex-Officio for the Senate Veterans, Military, and Homeland Security Committee**.

Sincerely,

Geoff Duncan
Lt. Governor of Georgia

cc: Appointee
Legislative Fiscal Office
Committee Chairman

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Veterans, Military, and Homeland Security
Thursday, March 5, 2020

The Senate Committee on Veterans, Military, and Homeland Security met on Thursday, March 5, 2020 at 8:00 a.m. in Room 310 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Bruce Thompson (14th), Chairman
Sen. Ed Harbison (15th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Mike Dugan (30th), Secretary
Sen. Tonya Anderson (43rd) (*Arrived late*)
Sen. Zahra Karinshak (48th)
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd)
Sen. Ben Watson (1st) (Ex-Officio)

NOTE: Sen. Michael ‘Doc’ Rhett (33rd), Sen. Emanuel Jones (10th), Sen. John Albers (56th), and Sen. Larry Walker III (20th) were absent.

Chairman Thompson (14th) called the meeting to order at 8:11 a.m.

The Chair recognized Vice-Chair Harbison (15th) for the purpose of presiding as Chairman.

[SB 493](#) (Sen. Thompson, 14th, LC 34 5645) Selling and Other Trade Practices; legislative findings; standards for cybersecurity programs to protect businesses from liability; provide

The Vice-Chair recognized Sen. Thompson (14th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Thompson (14th) presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Anderson (43rd) arrived at 8:12 a.m.

The Vice-Chair opened the floor for debate.

The Vice-Chair recognized Elizabeth Hinson, Chair of Morris, Manning & Martin, LLP’s Cybersecurity and Privacy Practice, to serve as a subject matter expert on the bill.

The Vice-Chair recognized Sen. Watson (1st) who made a motion that **SB 493 Do Pass (LC 34 5645)**. Sen. Dugan (30th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 5-1.

Sen. Harbison (15th), Sen. Dugan (30th), Sen. Anderson (43rd), Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd), and Sen. Watson (1st) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Karinshak (48th) voted against the motion.

Committee Recommendation: SB 493 DO PASS (LC 34 5645)

Sen. Thompson (14th) resumed position as Chair.

Chairman Thompson (14th) adjourned the meeting at 8:41 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

/s/ Jenna Purpura, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Veterans, Military, and Homeland Security
Thursday, June 18, 2020

The Senate Committee on Veterans, Military, and Homeland Security met on Thursday, June 18, 2020 at 8:00 a.m. in Room 310 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Bruce Thompson (14th), Chairman
Sen. Ed Harbison (15th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Tonya Anderson (43rd) (*Arrived Late*)
Senator Michael ‘Doc’ Rhett (33rd)
Sen. Zahra Karinshak (48th)
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd)
Sen. Ben Watson (1st) (Ex-Officio)

NOTE: Sen. Mike Dugan (30th), Secretary, Sen. Emanuel Jones (10th), Sen. John Albers (56th), Sen. Larry Walker III (20th), were absent.

Chairman Thompson called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.m.

[HB 819](#) (Rep. Hitchens, 161st, HB 819/FA) Motor vehicles; veterans' license to any person who is a United States citizen and resident of this state who served in the military for an ally of the United States during a time of war or other conflict; authorize issuance

The Chair recognized Rep. Bill Hitchens (161st) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Hitchens (161st) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair recognized Sen. Watson (1st) who made a motion that **HB 819 Do Pass (HB 819/FA)**. Sen. Kirkpatrick seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: HB 819 DO PASS (HB 819/FA)

[HB 914](#) (Rep. Clark, 147th, LC 36 4281S) “Professions and businesses; military spouses licensed in other states to practice certain professions and occupations in this state”

The Chair recognized Rep. Heath Clark (147th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Clark (147th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair recognized Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) who made a motion that **HB 914 Do Pass (LC 36 4281S)**. Sen. Rhett (33rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: HB 914 DO PASS (LC 36 4281S)

HB 907 (Rep. Sainz, 180th, LC 28 9568) Military; additional time period of service in the definition of "war veteran"; include

NOTE: Sen. Anderson (43rd) arrived at 8:20 a.m.

The Chair recognized Rep. Steven Sainz (180th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Sainz (180th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair recognized Sen. Harbison (15th) who made a motion that **HB 907 Do Pass (LC 28 9568)**. Sen. Rhett (33rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: HB 907 DO PASS (LC 28 9568)

Chairman Thompson (14th) adjourned the meeting at 8:34 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

/s/ Jenna Purpura, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Veterans, Military, and Homeland Security
Tuesday, June 23, 2020

The Senate Committee on Veterans, Military, and Homeland Security met on Thursday, June 18, 2020 at 3:20 p.m. in Room 310 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Bruce Thompson (14th), Chairman
Sen. Ed Harbison (15th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Tonya Anderson (43rd)
Sen. Michael ‘Doc’ Rhett (33rd)
Sen. Zahra Karinshak (48th)
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd)
Sen. Ben Watson (1st) (Ex-Officio)

NOTE: Sen. Mike Dugan (30th), Secretary, Sen. Emanuel Jones (10th), Sen. John Albers (56th), Sen. Larry Walker III (20th), were absent.

Chairman Thompson called the meeting to order at 3:22 p.m.

SR 791 (Sen. Jones, 22nd, LC 112 0298) State of Georgia; creation of a state veterans cemetery in Augusta-Richmond County, Georgia; support

The Chair recognized Sen. Harold Jones (22nd) for the purpose of presenting the resolution. Sen. Jones (22nd) presented the resolution to the Committee.

The Chair recognized Sen. Harbison (15th) who made a motion that **SR 791 Do Pass (LC 112 0298)**. Sen. Anderson (43rd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: SR 791 DO PASS (LC 112 0298)

Chairman Thompson (14th) adjourned the meeting at 3:26 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

/s/ Jenna Purpura, Recording Secretary