

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON INSURANCE AND LABOR  
2020 ROSTER**

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**Sen. Burt Jones, Chairman**

District 25  
264 Alabama Blvd.  
Jackson, Georgia 30233

**Sen. Freddie Powell Sims, Ex-Officio**

District 12  
5377 Goose Hollow Road  
Dawson, Georgia 31742

**Sen. P. K. Martin IV, Vice-Chairman**

District 9  
455 Pine Forest Drive  
Lawrenceville, Georgia 30046

**Sen. Randy Robertson**

District 29  
P. O. Box 62  
Cataula, Georgia 31804

**Sen. Marty Harbin, Secretary**

District 16  
215 Greencastle Road  
Tyrone, Georgia 30290

**Sen. Renee Unterman, Ex-Officio**

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

**Sen. Dean Burke**

District 11  
1906 Legette Drive  
Bainbridge, Georgia 39819

**Sen. Larry Walker, III**

District 20  
1110 Washington Street  
Perry, Georgia 31069

**Sen. Ed Harbison**

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

**Sen. Ben Watson, Ex-Officio**

District 1  
1326 Eisenhower Drive #2  
Savannah, Georgia 31406

**Senator Kay Kirkpatrick**

District 32  
2146 Roswell Rd., Suite 108895  
Marietta, Georgia 30062

**Senator David Lucas**

District 26  
2594 Saratoga Drive  
Macon, Georgia 31211

**THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON INSURANCE AND LABOR**  
**2019-2020 COMMITTEE RULES**

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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  
Monday, February 3, 2020**

The Senate Committee on Insurance and Labor held a meeting on Monday, February 3, 2020, 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 IV (9th), Vice-Chairman (*arrived late*)  
Sen. Marty Harbin (16th), Secretary  
Sen. Dean Burke (11th)  
Sen. Ed Harbison (15th) (*arrived late*)  
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd)  
Sen. David Lucas (26th) (*arrived late*) (*left early*)  
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Randy Robertson (29th)  
Sen. Larry Walker (20th)  
Sen. Ben Watson (1st), Ex-Officio

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

Chairman Jones (25th) called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m., with prayer.

Chairman Jones (25th) recognized Commissioner John F. King of the Office of Insurance and Fire Safety for comments.

**NOTE:** Sen. P.K. Martin IV (9th) arrived at 1:08 p.m.

**SB 303 (Sen. Watson, 1st, LC 46 0212) 'Georgia Right to Shop Act'; greater transparency of prices for nonemergency healthcare services; provide**

The Chairman recognized Sen. Watson (1st) to present SB 303 to the Committee.

**NOTE:** Sen. Ed Harbison (15th) arrived at 1:09 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. David Lucas (26th) arrived at 1:10 p.m.

The Chairman led the Committee through a series of questions, which were answered by Sen. Watson (1st).

*Testimony in favor of the bill:*

Clark Howard, Consumer Advocate  
Kathy Pulvino, GA Alliance of Community Hospitals  
Anna Adams, GHA  
Keri Conley, GHA

Allen Hayes, American Health Insurance Plans

*Testimony in opposition to the bill:*

None

**NOTE:** Sen. Lucas (26th) left the meeting at 1:51p.m.

The Chairman stated that the Committee would have another meeting to address a proposed amendment and some other changes that he would like to propose for bill.

**Committee Recommendation: SB 303 (LC 46 0212) No Action Taken**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Marty Harbin (16th), Secretary

/s/ C. Denese Sampson, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
INSURANCE AND LABOR  
Wednesday, February 5, 2020**

The Senate Committee on Insurance and Labor held a meeting on Wednesday, February 5, 2020, at 8:00 a.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), Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Marty Harbin (16th), Secretary (*arrived late*)  
Sen. Dean Burke (11th)  
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd)  
Sen. David Lucas (26th)  
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Randy Robertson (29th)  
Sen. Larry Walker (20th)  
Sen. Ben Watson (1st), Ex-Officio

**NOTE:** Sen. Ed Harbison (15th) and Sen. Renee Unterman (45th) were absent.

Chairman Jones (25th) called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.m.

**SB 303 (Sen. Watson, 1st, LC 46 0212) 'Georgia Right to Shop Act'; greater transparency of prices for nonemergency healthcare services; provide**

The Chairman recognized Sen. Watson (1st) to present the proposed substitute for SB 303 to the Committee.

The Chairman led the Committee through a series of questions, to which Sen. Watson (1st) responded.

The Chairman asked for a motion. Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) made a motion that **SB 303 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 46 0256S)**. Sen. Walker (20th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote of 8-0.

**Committee Recommendation: SB 303 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 46 0256S)**

**NOTE:** Sen. Marty Harbin (16th) arrived at 8:10 a.m.

The Chairman recognized Sen. Walker (20th) for a question, to which the Chairman responded.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:13 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ C. Denese Sampson, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
INSURANCE AND LABOR  
Monday, February 10, 2020**

The Senate Committee on Insurance and Labor held a meeting on Monday, February 10, 2020, 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 IV (9th), Vice-Chairman (*arrived late*)  
Sen. Marty Harbin (16th), Secretary (*arrived late*) (*left early*)  
Sen. Dean Burke (11th) (*left early*)  
Sen. Ed Harbison (15th) (*arrived late*) (*left early*)  
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd)  
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Randy Robertson (29th)  
Sen. Renee Unterman (45th), Ex-Officio (*arrived late*)  
Sen. Larry Walker (20th)  
Sen. Ben Watson (1st), Ex-Officio

**NOTE:** Sen. David Lucas (26th) was absent.

Chairman Jones (25th) called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m., with prayer from Sen. Robertson (29th).

**[SB 327](#) (Sen. Karinshak, 48th, LC 41 2238) Labor and Industrial Relations; employers to provide reasonable break time to employee to express breast milk for nursing child; require**

The Chairman recognized Sen. Zahra Karinshak (48th) to introduce the proposed substitute for SB 327.

The Chairman confirmed that a vote on SB 327 would not currently be made to allow the Committee to further develop the bill.

The Chairman recognized members of the audience wanting to address the bill.

**NOTE:** Sen. P.K. Martin IV (9th) arrived at 1:03 p.m.

*Testimony in favor of the bill:*

Amber Mack, Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies  
Steven Wolfe, League of Women Voters

*Testimony in opposition to the bill:*

None

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

**Committee Recommendation: SB 327 (LC 41 2238) No Action Taken**

**SB 313** (Sen. Burke, 11th, LC 33 8160) Pharmacy Benefits Managers; regulation and licensure; extensive revisions; provide

**NOTE:** Sen. Ed Harbison (15th) arrived at 1:07 p.m.

The Chairman recognized Sen. Burke (11th) to address the proposed substitute for SB 313.

**NOTE:** Sen. Renee Unterman (45th) arrived at 1:08 p.m.

The Chairman recognized members of the audience wanting to address the Committee about the bill.

*Testimony in opposition to the bill:*

Scott Woods, Pharm Care Management Association  
Jessie Weathington, Georgia Association of Health Plans

*Testimony in favor of the bill:*

Bethany Sherrer, Medical Association of Georgia  
Derek Norton, Medical Association of Georgia  
Greg Reybold, Georgia Pharmacy Association  
Heather Breeden, National Multiple Sclerosis Society  
Suzie McKennan, Mamara, Director of Governmental Affairs  
Andy Lord, American College of Physicians

The Chairman appointed a subcommittee for SB 313 with the following members:

Sen. Larry Walker (20th), Chairman  
Sen. P.K. Martin IV (9th)  
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th)

The Chairman led the Committee through a series of questions with audience members speaking in favor of and in opposition of the bill.

**NOTE:** Sen. Harbison left the meeting at 1:42 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Harbin left the meeting at 1:45 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Burke left the meeting at 1:57 p.m.



**Committee Recommendation: SB (LC 33 8160) No Action Taken**

The Chairman announced the date scheduled for the subcommittee meeting as Wednesday, February 12, 2020, at 1 p.m., in Room 310 CLOB, and encouraged those wanting to address their concerns about the bill to attend the meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:36 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  
Thursday, February 20, 2020**

The Senate Committee on Insurance and Labor held a meeting on Thursday, February 20, 2020, at 2:00 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), Vice-Chairman (*arrived late*)  
Sen. Dean Burke (11th)  
Sen. Ed Harbison (15th)  
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd)  
Sen. David Lucas (26th) (*arrived late*)  
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Ex-Officio (*arrived late*)  
Sen. Randy Robertson (29th)  
Sen. Larry Walker (20th) (*arrived late*)  
Sen. Ben Watson (1st), Ex-Officio (*arrived late*)

**NOTE:** Sen. Marty Harbin (16th), Secretary and Sen. Renee Unterman (45th), were absent.

Chairman Jones (25th) called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m., with prayer from Sen. Harbison (15th).

**[SB 377](#) (Sen. Jones, 25th, LC 46 0194) Inspections; number of required annual elevator inspections; reduce**

The Chairman recognized representatives from the Insurance and Fire Safety Commissioner's Office, Weston Burlison and Chad DaBella, to address the proposed substitute for SB 377.

**NOTE:** Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th) arrived at 2:04 p.m.

The Chairman opened the floor for questions, to which Chad DaBella responded.

**NOTE:** Sen. Ben Watson (1st) arrived at 2:05 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Larry Walker (20th) arrived at 2:08 p.m.

The Chairman asked if there were any questions from the Committee. There were none. The Chairman asked for a motion.

Sen. Burke (11th) made a motion that **SB 377 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 46 0284S)**. Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote of 7-0.

**Committee Recommendation: SB 377 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 46 0284S)**

**SB 352** (Sen. Burke, 11th, LC 33 8174) **Online Provider Directories; certain coverage requirements concerning providers that become out-of-network during a plan year; provide**

The Chairman recognized Sen. Burke (11th) to introduce the proposed substitute for SB 352.

The Chairman led the Committee through a series of questions, to which Sen. Burke (11th) responded.

**NOTE:** Sen. David Lucas (26th) arrived at 2:14 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. P.K. Martin (9th) arrived at 2:22 p.m.

*Testimony in favor of the bill:*

Dr. Rob Sorgenson, Atlanta, Georgia  
Anna Adams, Private Citizen, Atlanta, Georgia  
Katie Childers, Piedmont Hospital  
Bethany Sherrer, Medical Association of Georgia  
Derek Norton, Medical Association of Georgia

*Testimony in opposition to the bill:*

Jessie Weathington, Georgia Association of Health Plans

The Chairman led the Committee through a further series of questions, to which Sen. Burke (11th) responded.

The Chairman asked for a motion. Sen. Watson (1st) made a motion that **SB 352 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 33 8278S)**. Sen. Robertson (29th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote of 9-0.

**Committee Recommendation: SB 352 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 33 8278S)**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:42 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  
Monday, February 24, 2020**

The Senate Committee on Insurance and Labor held a meeting on Monday, February 24, 2020, 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 IV (9th), Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Marty Harbin (16th), Secretary  
Sen. Dean Burke (11th) (*arrived late*)  
Sen. Ed Harbison (15th) (*arrived late*)  
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd)  
Sen. David Lucas (26th) (*arrived late*)  
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Larry Walker (20th) (*arrived late*)  
Sen. Ben Watson (1st), Ex-Officio

**NOTE:** Sen. Randy Robertson (29th) and Sen. Renee Unterman (45th) were absent.

Chairman Jones (25th) called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m., with prayer from Sen. Watson (1st).

**NOTE:** Sen. Dean Burke (11th)

**SB 374 (Sen. Kennedy, 18th, LC 41 2267) Final Remedies and Special Proceedings; new requirements under the "Georgia Civil Practice Act" for settlement offers and arrangements; revise and provide**

The Chairman recognized Sen. John Kennedy (18th) to address SB 374, and also asked everyone to please be mindful of their comments.

**NOTE:** Sen Walker (20th) and Sen. Lucas (26th) arrived at 1:06 p.m.

The Chairman asked if there were any questions from Committee members. There were none.

Chair recognized members of the audience wanting to address the Committee on the bill.

*Testimony in favor of the bill:*

Deedee Smith, Manager, Georgia Farm Bureau  
Mike Royal, President, Partners Risk Services  
David Atkinson, Swift Currie  
Jonathan Adelman, Attorney, Atlanta, Georgia

*Testimony in opposition to the bill:*

Jay Sadd, Atlanta Attorney

Bob Marshall, Owner, Game Truck LLC

**NOTE:** Sen. Harbison (15th) arrived at 1:29 p.m.

The Chairman led the Committee through a series of questions, to which Sen. Kennedy (18th) responded.

The Chairman asked for a motion. Sen. Walker (20th) made a motion that **SB 374 Do Pass (LC 41 2267)**. Sen. Burke (11th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 6-3.

Sen. Burke (11th), Sen. Harbin (16th), Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd), Sen. Martin (9th), Sen. Walker (20th), and Sen. Watson (1st) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Harbison (15th), Sen. Lucas (26th), and Sen. Sims (12th) voted against the motion.

**Committee Recommendation: SB 374 DO PASS (LC 41 2267)**

The Chairman announced the appointment of a subcommittee for SB 415, consisting of the following members:

Sen. Ben Watson (1st), Chairman

Sen. Dean Burke (11th)

Sen. Marty Harbin (16th)

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Marty Harbin (16th), Secretary

/s/ C. Denese Sampson, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
INSURANCE AND LABOR  
Thursday, February 27, 2020**

The Senate Committee on Insurance and Labor held a meeting on Thursday, February 27, 2020, at 2:00 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), Vice-Chairman (*arrived late*)  
Sen. Dean Burke (11th)  
Sen. Ed Harbison (15th)  
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd)  
Sen. David Lucas (26th) (*arrived late*)  
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Randy Robertson (29th) (*left early*)  
Sen. Larry Walker (20th)  
Sen. Ben Watson (1st), Ex-Officio

**NOTE:** Sen. Marty Harbin (16th), Secretary and Sen. Renee Unterman (45th), were absent.

Chairman Jones (25th) called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m., with prayer from Sen. Watson (1st).

The Chairman also recognized and welcomed to the meeting Chairman Gregory Tapley of the Monroe County Commission, and Ken Rivers from the Butts County Commission.

**NOTE:** Sen. P.K. Martin IV (9th) arrived at 2:08 p.m.

**[SB 327](#) (Sen. Karinshak, 48th, LC 41 2238) Labor and Industrial Relations; employers to provide reasonable break time to employee to express breast milk for nursing child; require**

The Chairman recognized Sen. Zahra Karinshak (48th) to introduce the proposed substitute for SB 327.

The Chairman asked for a motion. Sen. Martin (9th) made a motion that **SB 327 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 46 0301S)**. Sen. Walker (20th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote of 8-0.

**Committee Recommendation: SB 327 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 46 0301S)**

**[SB 412](#) (Sen. Robertson, 29th, LC 46 0278) Property Insurance; meaning; revise; parameters under which certain contracts, agreements, or instruments may be canceled; change**

The Chairman recognized Sen. Robertson (29th) to introduce the Committee substitute for SB 412.

Sen. Robertson (29th) briefly explained the bill and introduced Mr. Burleson, recognized as an industry expert, who accompanied him to address questions about the bill.

**NOTE:** Sen. David Lucas (26th) arrived at 2:12 p.m.

The Chairman led the Committee through a series of questions, to which Sen. Robertson (29th) and Mr. Burleson responded.

**NOTE:** Sen. Robertson (29th) left the meeting at 2:21 p.m.

Mr. Burleson continued with answering questions from the Committee.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Burleson for his presence and announced that the Committee would study SB 412 further to perfect the language of the bill.

*Testimony in favor of the bill:*

Jim Burleson, Service Contract Industry Council and Motor Vehicle Protection Products Assc.

*Testimony in opposition to the bill:*

None

**Committee Recommendation: SB 412 (LC 46 0278) No Action Taken**

**SB 408** (Sen. Strickland, 17th, LC 36 4218) Sick Leave for Care of Immediate Family Members; sunset provision relating to such sick leave requirements; repeal

The Chairman recognized Sen. Brian Strickland (17th) to introduce SB 408.

The Chairman led the Committee through a series of questions, to which Sen. Strickland (17th) responded.

*Testimony in favor of the bill:*

Callie Michael, AARP

*Testimony in opposition to the bill:*

None

Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) made a motion that **SB 408 Do Pass (LC 36 4218)**. Sen. Sims (12th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote of 8-0.

**Committee Recommendation: SB 408 DO PASS (LC 36 4218)**



There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:38 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  
Monday, March 2, 2020**

The Senate Committee on Insurance and Labor held a meeting on Monday, March 2, 2020, at 2:00 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), Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Marty Harbin (16th), Secretary  
Sen. Dean Burke (11th)  
Sen. Ed Harbison (15th)  
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd)  
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Randy Robertson (29th) (*arrived late*)  
Sen. Larry Walker (20th)  
Sen. Ben Watson (1st), Ex-Officio

**NOTE:** Sen. David Lucas (26th) and Sen. Renee Unterman (45th) were absent.

Chairman Jones (25th) called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m., with prayer from Sen. Watson (1st).

**SB 313 (Sen. Burke, 11th, LC 33 8160) Pharmacy Benefits Managers; regulation and licensure; extensive revisions; provide**

The Chairman recognized Sen. Burke (11th) to address the proposed substitute for SB 313.

The Chairman introduced Robert Hogan, Vice President of Pharmaceuticals for Pfizer, to address the committee in opposition of the bill. Chairman Jones noted that Mr. Hogan traveled from out of state to address the Committee.

**NOTE:** Sen. Randy Robertson (29th) arrived at 2:22 p.m.

The Chairman recognized Sen. Walker (20th), who served as Chairman of the subcommittee on SB 313, to offer the subcommittee's final recommendation.

The Subcommittee recommended that SB 313 pass by substitute.

The Chairman recognized Sen. Martin (9th) for questions and comments, to which the Chairman responded.

*Testimony in favor of the bill:*

Robert Hogan, Vice President of Pharmaceuticals, Pfizer

*Testimony in opposition to the bill:*

None

The Chairman asked for a motion. Sen. Walker (20th) made a motion that **SB 313 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 33 8317S)**. Sen. Sims (12th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Recommendation: SB 313 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 33 8317S)**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Marty Harbin (16th), Secretary

/s/ C. Denese Sampson, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
INSURANCE AND LABOR  
Tuesday, March 3, 2020**

The Senate Committee on Insurance and Labor held a meeting on Tuesday, March 3, 2020, at 8:00 a.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), Vice-Chairman (*arrived late*)  
Sen. Marty Harbin (16th), Secretary  
Sen. Dean Burke (11th)  
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd)  
Sen. David Lucas (26th) (*arrived late*)  
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Randy Robertson (29th)  
Sen. Larry Walker (20th)  
Sen. Ben Watson (1st), Ex-Officio

**NOTE:** Sen. Ed Harbison (15th) and Sen. Renee Unterman (45th) were absent.

Chairman Jones (25th) called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.m., with prayer from Sen. Walker (20th).

**SB 415 (Sen. Gooch, 51st, LC 36 4279) Civil Practice and Litigation; several titles of the O.C.G.A.; amend and revise**

The Chairman recognized Sen. Steve Gooch (51st) to address SB 415. Sen. Gooch (51st) was accompanied by Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th).

The Chairman led the Committee through a series of questions, to which Sen. Gooch (51st) and Sen. Cowsert (46th) responded.

**NOTE:** Sen. David Lucas (26th) arrived at 8:38 a.m.

The Chairman recognized Sen. Watson (1st), who served as Chairman of the subcommittee on SB 415, to offer the recommendation of the subcommittee.

The subcommittee recommended that SB 415 do pass by substitute.

The Chairman recognized members of the audience present to speak on the bill.

*Testimony in opposition to the bill:*

Eric Schuller, ARC President

Dan Snipes, Georgia Trial Lawyers Association

*Testimony in favor of the bill:*

Al Cartwright, Georgia Farm Bureau  
Ed Crowell, Georgia Motor Trucking Association  
Bill Custer, private citizen  
Philip Henderson, Attorney, Watson-Spence  
Nathan Humphrey, NFIB  
Mike Iverson, Independent Insurance Agents of Georgia  
Ashley Jenkins, ACEC Georgia  
Zach Johnson, Beasley Forest Products  
Scott LaFronco, Georgia Dental Association  
Dr. Andrew Reisman, President, MAG

The Chairman led the Committee through a further series of questions, to which Sen. Gooch (51st) and Sen. Cowsert (46th) responded.

Sen. Walker (20th) moved to amend lines 133 & 134 of SB 415 with the amendment (**AM 36 0785**). Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) seconded the motion. The amendment was unanimously adopted by vote of 9-0.

The Chairman recognized Sen. Cowsert (46th) to offer an amendment that would clarify the bifurcation language in section 1-3 of the proposed substitute. The Chairman asked for a motion for the adoption of Sen. Cowsert's amendment, which would be formatted accordingly by Legislative Counsel.

Sen. Martin (9th) made a motion to adopt the amendment offered by Sen. Cowsert (46th). Sen. Harbin (16th) seconded the motion. The amendment was adopted by unanimous vote of 9-0.

The Chairman asked for a motion. Sen. Burke (11th) made a motion that **SB 415 Do Pass By Substitute**. Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 7-2.

Sen. Martin (9th), Sen. Harbin (16th), Sen. Burke (11th), Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd), Sen. Robertson (29th), Sen. Walker (20th), and Sen. Watson (1st) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Lucas (26th) and Sen. Sims (12th), voted against the motion.

The Chairman indicated his preference that the adopted amendments be incorporated into a perfected Committee Substitute.

**Committee Recommendation: SB 415 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 36 4351S)**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:13 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Marty Harbin (16th), Secretary

/s/ C. Denese Sampson, Recording Secretary

**BURT JONES**  
District 25

327-A Coverdell Legislative Office Building  
18 Capitol Square, SW  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

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**The State Senate**  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

**COMMITTEES:**

Insurance and Labor, Chairman  
Banking and Financial Institutions  
Higher Education  
Transportation

**DEPUTY WHIP**

March 5, 2020

Mr. David A. Cook  
Secretary of the Senate  
353 State Capitol  
Atlanta, Georgia 30034

Secretary Cook,

I have authorized Senator P.K. Martin, Vice-Chairman of the Senate Committee on Insurance and Labor, to preside in the capacity and authority of Chairman in my absence from the Committee meeting being held Thursday, March 5, 2020, in Room 310 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building (CLOB) at 2:00 p.m.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Jones".

Burt Jones  
Senator, District 25  
Chairman, Insurance & Labor Committee

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
INSURANCE AND LABOR  
Thursday, March 5, 2020**

The Senate Committee on Insurance and Labor held a meeting on Thursday, March 5, 2020, at 2:00 p.m., in Room 310 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building (CLOB). Members present were as follows:

Sen. P.K. Martin IV (9th), Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Marty Harbin (16th), Secretary  
Sen. Dean Burke (11th) (*left early*)  
Sen. Ed Harbison (15th)  
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd)  
Sen. David Lucas (26th)  
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Ex-Officio (*arrived late*)  
Sen. Randy Robertson (29th)  
Sen. Larry Walker (20th)  
Sen. Ben Watson (1st), Ex-Officio (*arrived late*) (*left early*)

**NOTE:** Sen. Burt Jones (25th), Chairman, and Sen. Renee Unterman (45th) were absent.

Vice-Chairman Martin (9th) called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m., with prayer from Sen. Harbin (16th).

**SB 299 (Sen. Martin, 9th, LC 46 0192) Insurance; disability income insurance; residents of this state; monthly confirmation premiums/annual disclosure of premiums received; provide**

Vice-Chairman Martin (9th) briefly explained the proposed substitute for SB 299.

**NOTE:** Sen. Watson (1st) arrived at 3:04 p.m.

The Vice-Chairman led the Committee through a series of questions, to which the Vice-Chairman and Sen. Harbin (16th) responded.

The Vice-Chairman recognized members of the audience wanting the address the Committee on SB 299.

*Testimony in opposition to the bill:*

Bobby Potter, ACI

*Testimony in favor of the bill:*

*None*

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



The Vice-Chairman asked for a motion. Sen. Robertson (29th) made a motion that **SB 299 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 46 0315S)**. Sen. Harbin (16th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote of 5-0.

**Committee Recommendation: SB 299 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 46 0315S)**

**SB 432 (Sen. Harbin, 16th, LC 46 0261) Life Insurance; annual notification of policy owners and requested beneficiaries of the existence of such policies; require**

The Vice-Chairman recognized Sen. Harbin (16th) to introduce the proposed substitute for SB 432.

**NOTE:** Sen. Burke (11th) left the meeting at 3:10 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Watson (1st) left the meeting at 3:13 p.m.

**NOTE:** Sen. Sims (12th) arrived at 3:14 p.m.

The Vice-Chairman led the Committee through a series of questions, to which Sen. Harbin (16th) responded.

**NOTE:** Sen. Sims (12th) left the meeting at 3:23 p.m.

The Vice-Chairman recognized members of the audience wanting to address the Committee on SB 299.

*Testimony in opposition to the bill:*

Bobby Potter, ACLI and State Farm

*Testimony in favor of the bill:*

Brad Carver, NAIFA

Vince Lally, NAIFA

Sen. Harbin (16th) made a motion that **SB 432 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 46 0303S)**. Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote of 4-0.

**Committee Recommendation: SB 432 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 46 0303S)**

**SB 412 (Sen. Robertson, 29th, LC 46 0278) Property Insurance; meaning; revise; parameters under which certain contracts, agreements, or instruments may be canceled; change**

The Vice-Chairman recognized Sen. Robertson (29th) to address the proposed substitute for SB 412.

**NOTE:** Sen. Sims (12th) returned to the meeting at 3:28 p.m.

Sen. Robertson (29th) introduced Jim Burleson, a representative of the Service Contract Industry Council and Motor Vehicle Protection Products Association, to the Committee to answer questions and speak in favor of the bill.

Present to speak in opposition

Bobby Potter, ACLI and State Farm

Present to speak in favor

Jim Burleson, Service Contract Industry Council and Motor Vehicle Protection Products Assoc.

Brad Carver, NAIFA

Vince Lally, NAIFA

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

Sen. Robertson (29th) made a motion that **SB 412 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 46 0304S)**. Sen. Harbison (15th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote of 5-0

**Committee Recommendation: SB 412 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 46 0304S)**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Marty Harbin (16th), Secretary

/s/ C. Denese Sampson, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
INSURANCE AND LABOR  
Thursday, June 18, 2020**

The Senate Committee on Insurance and Labor held a meeting on Thursday, June 18, 2020, at 2:15 p.m., in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building (CLOB). Members present were as follows:

Sen. Burt Jones (25th), Chairman  
Sen. P.K. Martin IV (9th), Vice-Chairman (*left early*)  
Sen. Marty Harbin (16th), Secretary (*arrived late*)  
Sen. Dean Burke (11th) (*arrived late*)  
Sen. Ed Harbison (15th)  
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd)  
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Ben Watson (1st), Ex-Officio

**NOTE:** Sen. David Lucas (26th), Sen. Randy Robertson (29th), Sen. Renee Unterman (45th), and Sen. Larry Walker (20th) were absent.

Chairman Jones (25th) called the meeting to order at 3:22 p.m., with prayer from Sen. Watson (1st).

**HB 1094 (Rep. Gaines, 117th, LC 33 8360S) Public officers and employees; paid parental leave for state employees; provide**

The Chairman recognized Rep. Houston Gaines (117th) to explain the original version of HB 1094.

The Chairman introduced Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd) to introduce a proposed substitute for HB 1094.

Sen. Mullis proposed an amendment to the proposed substitute which would change the reduction in pay for members of the General Assembly from 14% to 11%.

Sen. Watson (1st) made a motion to adopt Sen. Mullis' proposed amendment. Sen. Harbison (15th) seconded the motion. The amendment was adopted unanimously.

Sen. Watson (1st) made a motion that **HB 1094 Do Pass By Substitute**. Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote of 5-0.

The Chairman indicated his preference that the adopted amendments be incorporated into a perfected Committee Substitute.

The Chairman stated that Sen. Mullis (53rd) would serve as Senate sponsor of the bill.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 1094 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 46 0329S)**

**NOTE:** Sen. Dean Burke (11th) arrived.

**[HB 758](#) (Rep. Powell, 32nd, LC 39 2430) Georgia Motor Carrier Act of 2012; consideration of the deployment of motor carrier safety improvements in determining an individual's employment status with a motor carrier; prohibit**

The Chairman recognized Rep. Alan Powell (32nd) to introduce HB 758.

The Chairman recognized Sen. Martin (9th) for a question, to which Rep. Powell (32nd) responded.

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

The Chairman asked for a motion. Sen. Watson (1st) made a motion that **HB 758 Do Pass (LC 39 2430)**. Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote of 5-1.

Sen. Burke (11th), Sen. Harbison (15th), Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd), Sen. Martin (9th), and Sen. Watson (1st) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Sims (12th) voted against the motion.

The Chairman stated that Sen. Robertson (29th) would serve as Senate sponsor.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 758 DO PASS (LC 39 2430)**

**[HB 167](#) (Rep. Taylor, 173rd, LC 46 0044) Insurance; employees of licensed property and casualty insurers to adjust residential property insurance claims of \$1,000.00 or less without obtaining an adjuster license; allow**

The Chairman recognized Sen. John Kennedy (18th) to introduce the proposed substitute for HB 167.

The Chairman led the Committee through a series of questions, to which Sen. Kennedy (18th) responded.

**NOTE:** Sen. Harbin (16th) arrived at 3:46 p.m.

The Chairman recognized members of the audience wanting to address the Committee.

*Testimony in favor of the bill:*

David Raynor, Georgia Chamber of Commerce

Nathan Humphrey, NFIB

Daniel New, Georgia Restaurant Association

Scott LaFronco, GDA General Counsel

Bethany Sherrer, Medical Association of Georgia

*Testimony in opposition to the bill:*

None

The Chairman asked for a motion. Sen. Watson (1st) made a motion that **HB 167 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 46 0328S)**. Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote of 6-1.

Sen. Burke (11th), Sen. Harbin (16th), Sen. Harbison (15th), Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd), Sen. Martin (9th), and Sen. Watson (1st) voted in favor of the motion

Sen. Sims (12th) voted against the motion.

The Chairman stated that Sen. Kennedy (18th) would serve as Senate sponsor.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 167 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 46 0328S)**

**HB 946** (Rep. Knight, 130th, LC 33 8313) **Insurance; extensive revisions regarding pharmacy benefits managers; provide**

The Chairman recognized Rep. David Knight (130th) to introduce the proposed substitute for HB 946.

**NOTE:** Sen. Martin (9th) left the meeting at 4:04 p.m.

The Chairman recognized members of the audience wanting to address the Committee.

*Testimony in opposition to the bill:*

Jesse Weathington, Georgia Association of Health Plans

*Testimony in favor of the bill:*

Georgia Pharmacy Association representative

The Chairman asked for a motion. Sen. Watson (1st) made a motion that **HB 946 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 33 8423S)**. Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote of 6-0.

The Chairman stated that Sen. Burke (11th) would serve as Senate sponsor.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 946 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 33 8423S)**

**HB 1050** (Rep. Lumsden, 12th, LC 46 0295) **Georgia Life and Health Insurance Guaranty Association; certain persons receiving insurance coverage from health maintenance**

**organization subscriber contracts or health care corporation plans; extend association protections**

The Chairman recognized Weston Burlison, with the Insurance and Fire Safety Commissioner's Office, to introduce HB 1050.

The Chairman led the Committee through a series of questions, to which Mr. Burlison responded.

The Chairman recognized members of the audience wanting to address the bill.

*Testimony in opposition to the bill:*

Shea Ross-Smith, Kaiser Permanente

*Testimony in favor of the bill:*

Bobby Potter, ACLI

The Chairman asked for a motion. Sen. Watson (1st) made a motion that **HB 1050 Do Pass (LC 46 0295)**. Sen. Sims (12th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote of 6-0.

The Chairman stated that Sen. Harbin (16th) would serve as Senate sponsor.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 1050 DO PASS (LC 46 0295)**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:32 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  
Tuesday, June 23, 2020**

The Senate Committee on Insurance and Labor held a meeting on Tuesday, June 23, 2020, at 8:30 a.m., in Room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building (CLOB). Members present were as follows:

Sen. Burt Jones (25th), Chairman  
Sen. P.K. Martin IV (9th), Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Dean Burke (11th) (*arrived late*)  
Sen. Ed Harbison (15th)  
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd)  
Sen. Freddie Powell Sims (12th), Ex-Officio  
Sen. Randy Robertson (29th) (*arrived late*)  
Sen. Larry Walker (20th)

**NOTE:** Sen. Marty Harbin (16th), Secretary, Sen. David Lucas (26th), Sen. Renee Unterman (45th), and Sen. Ben Watson (1st) were absent.

Chairman Jones (25th) called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m., with prayer from Sen. Walker (20th).

**HB 716 (Rep. Blackmon, 146th, LC 46 0176) Insurance; carriers issuing a health benefit plan in this state through an agent shall file proposed commission rates with the department; provide**

The Chairman recognized Rep. Shaw Blackmon (146th) to introduce HB 716.

The Chairman recognized Sen. Martin (9th) for a question, to which Rep. Blackmon (146th) responded.

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

Sen. Walker (20th) made a motion that **HB 716 Do Pass (LC 46 0176)**. Sen. Martin (9th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote of 6-0.

The Chairman stated that Sen. Watson (1st) would serve as Senate sponsor.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 716 DO PASS (LC 46 0176)**

**HB 893 (Rep. Gambill, 15th, LC 46 0193) Special Insurance Fraud Fund; frequency of assessments; reduce**

The Chairman recognized Rep. Matthew Gambill (15th) to introduce HB 893.

Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) made a motion that **HB 893 Do Pass (LC 46 0193)**. Sen. Walker (20th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote of 6-0.

The Chairman stated that Sen. Walker (20th) would serve as Senate sponsor.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 893 DO PASS (LC 46 0193)**

**HB 1070 (Rep. Gaines, 117th, LC 46 0313S) Condominiums; new insurance policy disclosure requirements for condominium associations and unit owners in the event of potential or actual claims filed against such policies; provide**

The Chairman recognized Rep. Houston Gaines (117th) to introduce HB 1070.

**NOTE:** Sen. Burke (11th) arrived at 8:37 a.m.

The Chairman recognized Sen. Martin (9th), who offered an amendment to HB 1070 between lines 36 & 37 that would prevent the setting of a mandate.

The Chairman confirmed that Rep. Gaines (117th) was in favor of Sen. Martin's (9th) amendment.

Sen. Martin (9th) made a motion to adopt his proposed amendment. Sen. Watson (1st) seconded the motion. The amendment was adopted by unanimous vote.

Sen. Martin (9th) made a motion that **HB 1070 Do Pass By Substitute**. Sen. Walker (20th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote of 7-0.

The Chairman indicated his preference that the adopted amendment be incorporated into a perfected Committee Substitute.

The Chairman stated that Sen. Martin (9th) would serve as Senate sponsor.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 1070 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 46 0335S)**

**HB 1090 (Rep. Silcox, 52nd, LC 50 0076) Labor and industrial relations; provisions regarding employer's obligation to provide break time for an employee to express breast milk; revise**

The Chairman recognized Rep. Deborah Silcox (52nd) to introduce HB 1090.

The Chairman recognized Commissioner Mark Butler, Georgia Department of Labor, to address the proposed substitute for HB 1090.



**NOTE:** Sen. Randy Robertson (29th) arrived at 8:52 a.m.

The Chairman led the Committee through a series of questions, to which Rep. Silcox (52nd) and Commissioner Mark Butler responded.

The Chairman recognized Sen. Martin (9th) who proposed an amendment after line 42, which would relieve an employer of liability surrounding the expressing or storage of an employee's breast milk.

Sen. Martin (9th) made a motion for adoption of his proposed amendment. Sen. Robertson (29th) seconded the motion. The amendment was adopted by unanimous vote.

Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) made a motion that **HB 1090 Do Pass By Substitute**. Sen. Martin (9th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote of 8-0.

The Chairman indicated his preference that the adopted amendments be incorporated into a perfected Committee Substitute.

The Chairman stated that Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) would serve as Senate sponsor.

**Committee Recommendation: HB 1090 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 46 0334S)**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:59 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ C. Denese Sampson, Recording Secretary