

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

2021 ROSTER

Sen. Ben Watson, Chairman
District 1
1326 Eisenhower Drive #2
Savannah, GA 31406

Sen. Bo Hatchett
District 50
P.O. Box 2706
Clarksville, GA 30523

Sen. Dean Burke, Vice-Chairman
District 11
1906 Pineland Drive
Bainbridge, GA 39819

Sen. Chuck Hufstetler
District 52
3 Orchard Spring Drive
Rome, GA 30165

Sen. Greg Dolezal, Secretary
District 27
6505 Shiloh Road
Alpharetta, GA 30005

Sen. Lester Jackson
District 2
1501 Abercorn Street
Savannah, GA 31401

Sen. Michelle Au
District 48
5805 State Bridge Rd., Suite G-237
Johns Creek, GA 30097

Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick
District 32
2146 Roswell Road, Suite 108895
Marietta, GA 30062

Sen. Gloria Butler
District 55
6241 Southland Trace
Stone Mountain, GA 30087

Sen. Nan Orrock
District 36
1070 Delaware Avenue SE
Atlanta, GA 30316

Sen. Bill Cowsert
District 46
P.O. Box 512
Athens, GA 30603

Sen. John Kennedy, Ex-Officio
District 18
231 Riverside Drive
Macon, GA 31201

Sen. Sonya Halpern
District 39
PO Box 13142
Atlanta, GA 30324

Sen. Larry Walker, Ex-Officio
District 20
1110 Washington Street
Perry, GA 31069

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

2021 -2022 Rules

- 1.** Quorum of the Committee shall be seven (7) 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
Tuesday, February 2, 2021**

The Senate Committee on Health and Human Services met on Tuesday, February 2, 2021, at 2:15 p.m., in Room 450 of the State Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Ben Watson (1st), Chairman
Sen. Dean Burke (11th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th), Secretary
Sen. Michelle Au (48th)
Sen. Gloria Butler (55th)
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th)
Sen. Sonya Halpern (39th)
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd)
Sen. Lester Jackson (2nd)
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd)
Sen. Nan Orrock (36th)
Sen. John Kennedy (18th), Ex-Officio (*Arrived Late*)

NOTE: Senators Bo Hatchett (50th) and Larry Walker (20th) were absent.

Chairman Watson (1st) called the meeting to order at 2:18 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Kennedy (18th) arrived at 2:33 p.m.

Chairman Watson (1st) introduced the committee rules for the 2021-2022 Legislative Session.

Sen. Orrock (36th) motioned to adopt the rules for the 2021-2022 Legislative Session. Sen. Dolezal (27th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The adopted committee rules are attached to these minutes

SB 5 (Sen. Kirkpatrick, 32nd, LC 33 8466) Professions and Businesses; patient protection measures for patients undergoing sedation in certain settings; provide.

The Chair recognized Sen. 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.

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Dr. Alex Gross GA Composite Board

Scott LoFranco, GA Dental Association
Dr. Tony Jet, GA Society of Anesthesiology

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Burke (11th) who made a motion that **SB 5 Do Pass (LC 33 8466)**.
Sen. Au (48th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 11-0.

Sen. Burke (11th), Sen. Dolezal (27th), Sen. Au (48th), Sen. Butler (55th), Sen. Cowsert (46th),
Sen. Halpern (39th), Sen. Hufstetler (52nd), Sen. Jackson (2nd), Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd), Sen.
Orrock (36th), and Sen. Kennedy (18th), voted in favor of motion.

Committee Recommendation: SB 5 Do Pass (LC 33 8466)

Chairman Watson (1st) adjourned the meeting at 2:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th), Secretary

/s/ Leighton Kennedy, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Wednesday, February 3, 2021**

The Senate Committee on Health and Human Services met on Wednesday, February 3, 2021, at 1:00 p.m., in Room 450 of the State Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Ben Watson (1st), Chairman
Sen. Dean Burke (11th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th), Secretary
Sen. Michelle Au (48th)
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th)
Sen. Sonya Halpern (39th)
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd)
Sen. Lester Jackson (2nd) (*Arrived Late*) (*Left Early*)
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd)
Sen. Nan Orrock (36th)
Sen. John Kennedy (18th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Larry Walker (20th), Ex-Officio

NOTE: Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th) and Sen. Gloria Butler (55th) were absent.

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

NOTE: Sen. Jackson (2nd) arrived at 1:08 p.m.

SB 4 (Sen. Kirkpatrick, 32nd, LC 33 8467) Drug Abuse Treatment and Education Programs; patient brokering; prohibit; definitions; exceptions; penalties; provide.

The Chair recognized Sen. 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.

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Dick Cottrill, GARR
Charmon Talley, GARR
Missy Owens, Davis Direction Foundation
Jeff Breedlove, GA Council of Substance Abuse
Lissa Franklin

NOTE: Sen. Jackson (2nd) left at 1:34 p.m.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Kennedy (18th) who made a motion that **SB 4 Do Pass (LC 33 8467)**. Sen. Walker (20th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 10-0.

Sen. Burke (11th), Sen. Dolezal (27th), Sen. Au (48th), Sen. Cowser (46th), Sen. Halpern (39th), Sen. Hufstetler (52nd), Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd), Sen. Orrock (36th), Sen. Kennedy (18th), and Sen. Walker (20th) voted in favor of motion.

Committee Recommendation: SB 4 Do Pass (LC 33 8467)

Chairman Watson (1st) adjourned the meeting at 1:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th), Secretary

/s/ Leighton Kennedy, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Tuesday, February 9, 2021**

The Senate Committee on Health and Human Services met on Tuesday, February 9, 2021, at 2:15 p.m., in Room 450 of the State Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Ben Watson (1st), Chairman
Sen. Dean Burke (11th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th), Secretary
Sen. Michelle Au (48th)
Sen. Gloria Butler (55th)
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Sonya Halpern (39th)
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd)
Sen. Lester Jackson (2nd) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd)
Sen. Nan Orrock (36th)
Sen. Larry Walker (20th), Ex-Officio

NOTE: Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th) and Sen. John Kennedy (18th) were absent.

Chairman Watson (1st) called the meeting to order at 2:20 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Cowsert (46th) arrived at 2:22 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Cowsert (46th) left at 2:24 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Cowsert (46th) returned at 2:25 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Jackson (2nd) arrived at 2:29 p.m.

[SB 46](#) (Sen. Burke, 11th, LC 33 8542) Health; certain medical personnel to administer vaccines during public health emergencies under certain conditions; authorize.

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

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public.

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Greg Reibold, GPHA
Cindy Shepherd, GNA
Skin Edge, CVS
Thomas Beusse, GA Retailers

Josh Mackey, GA EMS
Anna Adams, GHA
Bethany Sherrer, MAG
Becky Ryles, CAHC
Megan Andrews, DPH

Testimony in opposition to the bill:

Tia Severino, private citizen

NOTE: Sen. Cowsert (46th) left at 3:00 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Cowsert (46th) returned at 3:01 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Watson (1st) recessed the meeting at 3:04 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Watson (1st) reconvened the meeting at 3:09 p.m.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Hufstetler (52nd) who made a motion that **SB 46 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 33 8609S)**. Sen. Orrock (36th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 11-0.

Sen. Burke (11th), Sen. Dolezal (27th), Sen. Au (48th), Sen. Butler (55th), Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Halpern (39th), Sen. Hufstetler (52nd), Sen. Jackson (2nd), Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd), Sen. Orrock (36th), and Sen. Walker (20th) voted in favor of motion.

Committee Recommendation: SB 46 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 33 8609S)

Chairman Watson (1st) adjourned the meeting at 3:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th), Secretary

/s/ Leighton Kennedy, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Wednesday, February 17, 2021**

The Senate Committee on Health and Human Services met on Wednesday, February 17, 2021, at 1:00 p.m., in Room 450 of the State Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Ben Watson (1st), Chairman
Sen. Dean Burke (11th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Michelle Au (48th)
Sen. Gloria Butler (55th)
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th)
Sen. Sonya Halpern (39th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th)
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd)
Sen. Lester Jackson (2nd) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd)
Sen. Nan Orrock (36th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. John Kennedy (18th), Ex-Officio (*Left Early*)
Sen. Larry Walker (20th), Ex-Officio (*Arrived Late*)

NOTE: Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th) was absent.

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

NOTE: Sen. Walker (20th) arrived at 1:05 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Orrock (36th) arrived at 1:07 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Jackson (2nd) arrived at 1:08 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Halpern (39th) arrived at 1:12 p.m.

[SB 116](#) (Sen. Robertson, 29th, LC 33 8570) Children and Youth Services; registration of maternity supportive house residences to provide housing for pregnant women; provide.

The Chair recognized Sen. Randy Robertson (29th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Robertson (29th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public.

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Mike Griffin, GA Baptists

Elizabeth Reed, GA Life Alliance

Beth Hathorn, Whispering Hope

Testimony in opposition to the bill:

Larry Ramsey, ACCG

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) who made a motion to insert the term “minor” on lines 16 and 37, and strike the sentence after the word “residence” on lines 36 and 37. Sen. Hatchett (50th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair indicated his preference that the adopted amendment be included in a perfected committee substitute.

NOTE: Sen. Kennedy (18th) left at 1:54 p.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Hatchett (50th) who made a motion that **SB 116 Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Burke (11th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 7-4.

Sen. Burke (11th), Sen. Butler (55th), Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Hatchett (50th), Sen. Hufstetler (52nd), Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd), and Sen. Walker (20th) voted in favor of motion.

Sen. Au (48th), Sen. Halpern (39th), Sen. Jackson (2nd), and Sen. Orrock (36th) voted against the motion.

Committee Recommendation: SB 116 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 33 8647S)

Chairman Watson (1st) adjourned the meeting at 2:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Ben Watson (1st), Chairman

/s/ Leighton Kennedy, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Tuesday, February 23, 2021**

The Senate Committee on Health and Human Services met on Tuesday, February 23, 2021, at 2:15 p.m., in Room 450 of the State Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Ben Watson (1st), Chairman
Sen. Dean Burke (11th), Vice-Chairman (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th), Secretary
Sen. Michelle Au (48th)
Sen. Gloria Butler (55th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Sonya Halpern (39th)
Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th)
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd)
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd)
Sen. Nan Orrock (36th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. John Kennedy (18th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Larry Walker (20th), Ex-Officio

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

Chairman Watson (1st) called the meeting to order at 2:38 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Butler (55th) arrived at 2:39 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Orrock (36th) arrived at 2:39 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Cowsert (46th) arrived at 2:40 p.m.
NOTE: Sen. Burke (11th) arrived at 2:51 p.m.

[SB 215](#) (Sen. Walker, 20th, LC 33 8650) Regulation of Hospitals; certified medication aides to administer certain medications to nursing home residents; authorize.

The Chair recognized Sen. 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.

Testimony in favor of the bill:
Pam Clayton, GHCA

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Hatchett (50th) who made a motion that **SB 215 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 33 8675S)**. Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 11-0.

Sen. Dolezal (27th), Sen. Au (48th), Sen. Butler (55th), Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Halpern (39th), Sen. Hatchett (50th), Sen. Hufstetler (52nd), Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd), Sen. Orrock (36th), Sen. Kennedy (18th), and Sen. Walker (20th) voted in favor of motion.

Committee Recommendation: SB 215 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 33 8675S)

NOTE: Sen. Watson (1st) stepped down as Chairman, and Sen. Dolezal (27th) took the Chair.

SB 235 (Sen. Watson, 1st, LC 41 2984) Offenses against Public Order; offense of wearing a mask, hood, or device which conceals the identity of the wearer; revise.

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

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Hatchett (50th) who made a motion to add the term “healthcare provider” on line 37. Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair indicated his preference that the adopted amendment be included in a perfected committee substitute.

The Chair recognized Sen. Walker (20th) who made a motion that **SB 235 Do Pass By Substitute**. Sen. Orrock (36th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 12-0.

Sen. Burke (11th), Sen. Watson (1st), Sen. Au (48th), Sen. Butler (55th), Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Halpern (39th), Sen. Hatchett (50th), Sen. Hufstetler (52nd), Sen. Jackson (2nd), Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd), Sen. Orrock (36th), Sen. Kennedy (18th), and Sen. Walker (20th) voted in favor of motion.

Committee Recommendation: SB 235 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 33 8692S)

Chairman Watson (1st) adjourned the meeting at 3:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th), Secretary

/s/ Leighton Kennedy, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Wednesday, February 24, 2021**

The Senate Committee on Health and Human Services met on Wednesday, February 24, 2021, at 1:00 p.m., in Room 450 of the State Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Ben Watson (1st), Chairman
Sen. Dean Burke (11th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th), Secretary
Sen. Michelle Au (48th)
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th) (*Left Early*)
Sen. Sonya Halpern (39th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th)
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd)
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd)
Sen. Nan Orrock (36th)
Sen. John Kennedy (18th), Ex-Officio (*Arrived Late*)

NOTE: Sen. Gloria Butler (55th), Sen. Lester Jackson (2nd), and Sen. Larry Walker (20th) were absent.

Chairman Watson (1st) called the meeting to order at 1:38 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Halpern (39th) arrived at 1:41 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Kennedy (18th) arrived at 1:43 p.m.

[HB 93](#) (Rep. Cooper, 43rd, LC 33 8610S) Health; eliminate duplicative state licensure and regulation of clinical laboratories; provisions.

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 comments from the public.

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Joe Hood, DCH

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Burke (11th) who made a motion that **HB 93 Do Pass (LC 33 8610S)**. Sen. Orrock (36th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 10-0.

Sen. Burke (11th), Sen. Dolezal (27th), Sen. Au (48th), Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Halpern (39th), Sen. Hatchett (50th), Sen. Hufstetler (52nd), Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd), Sen. Orrock (36th), and Sen. Kennedy (18th) voted in favor of motion.

NOTE: Sen. Cowsert (46th) left at 1:56 p.m.

Committee Recommendation: HB 93 Do Pass (LC 33 8610S)

HB 163 (Rep. Cooper, 43rd, LC 33 8562S) Community Health, Department of; submit state plan amendment to implement express lane enrollment in Medicaid; direct.

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

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public.

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Tom Rawlings, DFCS

Polly McKinney, Voices of Georgia's Children

Elizabeth Newcomb, CHOA

David Crooke, Voices of Georgia's Children

Mindy Binderman, GEEARS

Laura Colbert, Georgians for a Healthy Future

Betsy Bates, AAP

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Orrock (36th) who made a motion that **HB 163 Do Pass (LC 33 8562S)**. Sen. Burke (11th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 9-0.

Sen. Burke (11th), Sen. Dolezal (27th), Sen. Au (48th), Sen. Halpern (39th), Sen. Hatchett (50th), Sen. Hufstetler (52nd), Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd), Sen. Orrock (36th), and Sen. Kennedy (18th) voted in favor of motion.

Committee Recommendation: HB 163 Do Pass (LC 33 8562S)

Chairman Watson (1st) adjourned the meeting at 2:20 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th), Secretary

/s/ Leighton Kennedy, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Friday, February 26, 2021**

The Senate Committee on Health and Human Services met on Friday, February 26, 2021, at 7:30 a.m., in Room 450 of the State Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Ben Watson (1st), Chairman
Sen. Dean Burke (11th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Michelle Au (48th)
Sen. Sonya Halpern (39th)
Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th)
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd)
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd)

NOTE: Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th), Sen. Gloria Butler (55th), Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Sen. Lester Jackson (2nd), Sen. Nan Orrock (36th), Sen. John Kennedy (18th), and Sen. Larry Walker (20th) were absent.

Chairman Watson (1st) called the meeting to order at 7:40 a.m.

SB 256 (Sen. Burke, 11th, LC 33 8686ER) County Boards of Health; comprehensive reorganization; provide.

The Chair stated that SB 256 would receive a hearing only.

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

The Chair opened the floor to comments from the public.

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Bethany Sherrer, MAG
Megan Andrews, DPH

Committee Recommendation: SB 256 (LC 33 8686) No action was taken.

Chairman Watson (1st) adjourned the meeting at 8:15 a.m.
Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th), Secretary

/s/ Leighton Kennedy, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Tuesday, March 2, 2021**

The Senate Committee on Health and Human Services met on Tuesday, March 2, 2021, at 2:15 p.m., in Room 450 of the State Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Ben Watson (1st), Chairman
Sen. Dean Burke (11th), Vice-Chairman (*Left Early*)
Sen. Michelle Au (48th)
Sen. Gloria Butler (55th)
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Sonya Halpern (39th)
Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd)
Sen. Lester Jackson (2nd) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Nan Orrock (36th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. John Kennedy (18th), Ex-Officio (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Larry Walker (20th), Ex-Officio

NOTE: Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th) was absent.

Chairman Watson (1st) called the meeting to order at 2:33 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Hatchett (50th) arrived at 2:25 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Jackson (2nd) arrived at 2:25 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) arrived at 2:25 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Kennedy (18th) arrived at 2:25 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Cowsert (46th) arrived at 2:26 p.m.

[SB 256](#) (Sen. Burke, 11th, LC 33 8686ER) County Boards of Health; comprehensive reorganization; provide.

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

Sen. Burke (11th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public.

Testimony in opposition to the bill:

Debra Nesbit, ACCG

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Walker (20th) who made a motion that **SB 256 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 33 8737S)**. Sen. Butler (55th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 11-0.

Sen. Burke (11th), Sen. Dolezal (27th), Sen. Au (48th), Sen. Butler (55th), Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Halpern (39th), Sen. Hatchett (50th), Sen. Hufstetler (52nd), Sen. Jackson (2nd), Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd), Sen. Orrock (36th), Sen. Kennedy (18th), and Sen. Walker (20th) voted in favor of motion.

Committee Recommendation: SB 256 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 33 8737S)

NOTE: Sen. Orrock (36th) arrived at 2:29 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Burke (11th) left at 2:30 p.m.

HB 245 (Rep. LaHood, 175th, LC 33 8547) Professions and businesses; podiatry; amend a provision relating to fingerprint and criminal background checks.

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

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Hufstetler (52nd) who made a motion that **HB 245 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 33 8731S)**. Sen. Walker (20th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 11-0.

Sen. Au (48th), Sen. Butler (55th), Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Halpern (39th), Sen. Hatchett (50th), Sen. Hufstetler (52nd), Sen. Jackson (2nd), Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd), Sen. Orrock (36th), Sen. Kennedy (18th), and Sen. Walker (20th) voted in favor of motion.

Committee Recommendation: HB 245 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 33 8731S)

Chairman Watson (1st) adjourned the meeting at 2:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Ben Watson (1st), Chairman

/s/ Leighton Kennedy, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Tuesday, March 9, 2021**

The Senate Committee on Health and Human Services met on Tuesday, March 9, 2021, at 2:15 p.m., in Room 450 of the State Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Ben Watson (1st), Chairman
Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th), Secretary
Sen. Gloria Butler (55th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Sonya Halpern (39th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th)
Sen. Lester Jackson (2nd)
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd)
Sen. Nan Orrock (36th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. John Kennedy (18th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Larry Walker (20th), Ex-Officio

NOTE: Sen. Dean Burke (11th), Sen. Michelle Au (48th), and Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd) were absent.

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

NOTE: Sen. Halpern (39th) arrived at 3:16 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Orrock (36th) arrived at 3:16 p.m.

[HB 268](#) (Rep. Werkheiser, 157th, LC 36 4640S) The Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact Act; enact.

The Chair recognized Rep. Bill Werkheiser (157th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Werkheiser (157th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public.

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Tom Bauer, GA Occupational Therapy Assoc.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Hatchett (50th) who made a motion that **HB 268 Do Pass (LC 36 4640S)**. Sen. Orrock (36th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 8-0.

Sen. Dolezal (27th), Sen. Halpern (39th), Sen. Hatchett (50th), Sen. Jackson (2nd), Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd), Sen. Orrock (36th), Sen. Kennedy (18th), and Sen. Walker (20th) voted in favor of motion.

Committee Recommendation: HB 268 Do Pass (LC 36 4640S)

NOTE: Sen. Butler (55th) arrived at 3:28 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Cowsert (46th) arrived at 3:30 p.m.

HB 34 (Rep. Belton, 112nd, LC 36 4678S) Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact Act; enact.

The Chair recognized Rep. Dave Belton (112nd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Belton (112nd) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public.

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Stan Jones, Special Language Assoc.

Kelly Ball, Special Language Assoc.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) who made a motion that **HB 34 Do Pass (LC 36 4678S)**. Sen. Orrock (36th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 10-0.

Sen. Dolezal (27th), Sen. Butler (55th), Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Halpern (39th), Sen. Hatchett (50th), Sen. Jackson (2nd), Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd), Sen. Orrock (36th), Sen. Kennedy (18th), and Sen. Walker (20th) voted in favor of motion.

Committee Recommendation: HB 34 Do Pass (LC 36 4678S)

Chairman Watson (1st) adjourned the meeting at 3:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th), Secretary

/s/ Leighton Kennedy, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Wednesday, March 10, 2021**

The Senate Committee on Health and Human Services met on Wednesday, March 10, 2021, at 1:00 p.m., in Room 450 of the State Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Ben Watson (1st), Chairman (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Dean Burke (11th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Michelle Au (48th)
Sen. Gloria Butler (55th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th)
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd)
Sen. Lester Jackson (2nd) (*Left Early*)
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd)
Sen. Nan Orrock (36th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. John Kennedy (18th), Ex-Officio (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Larry Walker (20th), Ex-Officio

NOTE: Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th) and Sen. Sonya Halpern (39th) were absent.

NOTE: Sen. Burke (11th) convened the meeting in Sen. Watson's (1st) absence.

Vice-Chairman Burke (11th) called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Butler (55th) arrived at 1:04 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Orrock (36th) arrived at 1:04 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Cowsert (46th) arrived at 1:06 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Kennedy (18th) arrived at 1:07 p.m.

[HB 395](#) (Rep. Belton, 112nd, LC 36 4679S) The Professional Counselors Licensure Compact Act; enact.

The Chair recognized Rep. Dave Belton (112nd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Belton (112nd) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public.

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Dominique Marsalek, ACA

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Orrock (36th) who made a motion that **HB 395 Do Pass (LC 36 4679S)**. Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 9-1.

Sen. Au (48th), Sen. Butler (55th), Sen. Hatchett (50th), Sen. Hufstetler (52nd), Sen. Jackson (2nd), Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd), Sen. Orrock (36th), Sen. Kennedy (18th), and Sen. Walker (20th) voted in favor of motion.

Sen. Cowsert (46th) voted against the motion.

Committee Recommendation: HB 395 Do Pass (LC 36 4679S)

HB 119 (Rep. Hawkins, 27th, LC 33 8510) Professions and businesses; chiropractors may own professional corporations with physicians; provide.

The Chair recognized Rep. Lee Hawkins (27th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Hawkins (27th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public.

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Aubrey Villines, Ga Chiropractor Assoc.

NOTE: Sen. Watson (1st) arrived at 1:35 p.m.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Jackson (2nd) who made a motion that **HB 119 Do Pass (LC 33 8510)**. Sen. Orrock (36th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 8-3.

Sen. Watson (1st), Sen. Au (48th), Sen. Butler (55th), Sen. Hufstetler (52nd), Sen. Jackson (2nd), Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd), Sen. Orrock (36th), and Sen. Walker (20th) voted in favor of motion.

Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Hatchett (50th), and Sen. Kennedy (18th) voted against the motion.

Committee Recommendation: HB 119 Do Pass (LC 33 8510)

NOTE: Sen. Jackson (2nd) left at 1:40 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Watson (1st) resumed as chairman at 1:40 p.m.

HB 305 (Rep. Hawkins, 27th, LC 33 8530) Professions and businesses; massage therapy; revise a definition.

The Chair recognized Rep. Hawkins (27th) for the purpose of presenting the bill.
Rep. Hawkins (27th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public.

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Stan Jones, Am. Massage Therapy

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Butler (55th) who made a motion that **HB 305 Do Pass (LC 33 8530)**. Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 10-0.

Sen. Burke (11th), Sen. Au (48th), Sen. Butler (55th), Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Hatchett (50th), Sen. Hufstetler (52nd), Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd), Sen. Orrock (36th), Sen. Kennedy (18th), and Sen. Walker (20th) voted in favor of motion.

Committee Recommendation: HB 305 Do Pass (LC 33 8530)

HB 234 (Rep. Hawkins, 27th, LC 46 0375) Self-funded Healthcare Plan Opt-in to the Surprise Billing Consumer Protection Act; enact.

The Chair recognized Rep. Hawkins (27th) for the purpose of presenting the bill.
Rep. Hawkins (27th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public.

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Greg Connelly, DOI

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Burke (11th) who made a motion that **HB 234 Do Pass (LC 46 0375)**. Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 10-0.

Sen. Burke (11th), Sen. Au (48th), Sen. Butler (55th), Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Hatchett (50th), Sen. Hufstetler (52nd), Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd), Sen. Orrock (36th), Sen. Kennedy (18th), and Sen. Walker (20th) voted in favor of motion.

Committee Recommendation: HB 234 Do Pass (LC 46 0375)

Chairman Watson (1st) adjourned the meeting at 1:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Ben Watson (1st), Chairman

/s/ Leighton Kennedy, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Tuesday, March 16, 2021**

The Senate Committee on Health and Human Services met on Tuesday, March 16, 2021, at 2:15 p.m., in Room 450 of the State Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Ben Watson (1st), Chairman
Sen. Dean Burke (11th), Vice-Chairman (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th), Secretary
Sen. Michelle Au (48th)
Sen. Gloria Butler (55th)
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th)
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd)
Sen. Lester Jackson (2nd) (*Arrived Late*) (*Left Early*)
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd)
Sen. Nan Orrock (36th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Larry Walker (20th), Ex-Officio (*Arrived Late*)

NOTE: Sen. Sonya Halpern (39th) and Sen. John Kennedy (18th) were absent.

Chairman Watson (1st) called the meeting to order.

NOTE: Sen. Cowsert (46th) arrived at 2:19 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Walker (20th) arrived at 2:19 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Burke (11th) arrived at 2:20 p.m.

[HB 370](#) (Rep. Jones, 47th, LC 33 8521) Health; term limits for members of joint hospital authorities; provide.

The Chair recognized Rep. Jan Jones (47th) for the purpose of presenting the bill.

Rep. Jones (47th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) who made a motion that **HB 370 Do Pass (LC 33 8521)**. Sen. Hufstetler (52nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 8-1.

Sen. Burke (11th), Sen. Dolezal (27th), Sen. Au (48th), Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Hatchett (50th), Sen. Hufstetler (52nd), Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd), and Sen. Walker (20th) voted in favor of motion.

Sen. Butler (55th) voted against the motion.

Committee Recommendation: HB 370 Do Pass (LC 33 8521)

HB 567 (Rep. Cooper, 43rd, LC 33 8712S) Newborn Screening and Genetics Advisory Committee; create.

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 comments from the public.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Walker (20th) who made a motion that **HB 567 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 33 8762S)**. Sen. Burke (11th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 9-0.

Sen. Burke (11th), Sen. Dolezal (27th), Sen. Au (48th), Sen. Butler (55th), Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Hatchett (50th), Sen. Hufstetler (52nd), Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd), and Sen. Walker (20th) voted in favor of motion.

Committee Recommendation: HB 567 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 33 8762S)

HB 316 (Rep. Stephens, 164th, LC 33 8558) Pharmacies; increase pharmacist to pharmacy technician ratio for providing direct supervision at any time.

The Chair recognized Rep. Ron Stephens (164th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Stephens (164th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public.

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Thomas Beusse, GA Retailers

NOTE: Sen. Jackson (2nd) arrived at 2:35 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Jackson (2nd) left at 2:37 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Jackson (2nd) returned at 2:40 p.m.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) who made a motion that **HB 316 Do Pass (LC 33 8558)**. Sen. Burke (11th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 10-0.

Sen. Burke (11th), Sen. Dolezal (27th), Sen. Au (48th), Sen. Butler (55th), Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Hatchett (50th), Sen. Hufstetler (52nd), Sen. Jackson (2nd), Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd), and Sen. Walker (20th) voted in favor of motion.

Committee Recommendation: HB 316 Do Pass (LC 33 8558)

NOTE: Sen. Orrock (36th) arrived at 2:42 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Jackson (2nd) left at 2:45 p.m.

HB 346 (Rep. LaRiccia, 165th, LC 33 8697S) Jarom's Act; enact.

The Chair recognized Rep. Dominic LaRiccia (165th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. LaRiccia (165th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Au (48th) who made a motion to add the term “is believed to be” on line 23. Sen. Burke (11th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair indicated his preference that the adopted amendment be included in a perfected committee substitute.

The Chair recognized Sen. Hatchett (50th) who made a motion that **HB 346 Do Pass By Substitute**. Sen. Burke (11th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 10-0.

Sen. Burke (11th), Sen. Dolezal (27th), Sen. Au (48th), Sen. Butler (55th), Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Hatchett (50th), Sen. Hufstetler (52nd), Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd), Sen. Orrock (36th), and Sen. Walker (20th) voted in favor of motion.

Committee Recommendation: HB 346 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 33 8775S)

Chairman Watson (1st) adjourned the meeting at 2:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th), Secretary

/s/ Leighton Kennedy, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Wednesday, March 17, 2021**

The Senate Committee on Health and Human Services met on Wednesday, March 17, 2021, at 1:00 p.m., in Room 450 of the State Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Ben Watson (1st), Chairman
Sen. Dean Burke (11th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th), Secretary (*Left Early*)
Sen. Michelle Au (48th)
Sen. Gloria Butler (55th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th)
Sen. Sonya Halpern (39th) (*Left Early*)
Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th)
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd)
Sen. Lester Jackson (2nd) (*Arrived Late*) (*Left Early*)
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd)
Sen. Nan Orrock (36th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. John Kennedy (18th), Ex-Officio (*Arrived Late*) (*Left Early*)
Sen. Larry Walker (20th), Ex-Officio (*Left Early*)

Chairman Watson (1st) called the meeting to order at 1:34 p.m.

[HB 307](#) (Rep. Cooper, 43rd, LC 33 8632S) Georgia Telehealth Act; revise.

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 comments from the public.

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Aubrey Villines, GOA
Bethany Sherrer, MAG

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Burke (11th) who made a motion that **HB 307 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 33 8760S)**. Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 11-0.

Sen. Burke (11th), Sen. Dolezal (27th), Sen. Au (48th), Sen. Butler (55th), Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Halpern (39th), Sen. Hatchett (50th), Sen. Hufstetler (52nd), Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd), Sen. Orrock (36th), Sen. Kennedy (18th), and Sen. Walker (20th) voted in favor of motion.

Committee Recommendation: HB 307 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 33 8760S)

NOTE: Sen. Kennedy (18th) arrived at 1:35 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Butler (55th) arrived at 1:40 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Watson (1st) recessed the meeting at 1:44 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Watson (1st) reconvened the meeting at 1:48 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Orrock (36th) arrived at 1:56 p.m.

HB 141 (Rep. Gaines, 117th, LC 41 2801) Criminal procedure; requirements for awards made from Georgia Crime Victims Emergency Fund to medical service providers; 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 comments from the public.

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Elissa Haynes

Drew Eckle

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Burke (11th) who made a motion that **HB 141 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 41 3116S)**. Sen. Dolezal (27th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 6-6. Sen. Watson (1st) broke the tie by voting in favor of the motion.

Sen. Burke (11th), Sen. Dolezal (27th), Sen. Au (48th), Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd), Sen. Kennedy (18th) and Sen. Watson (1st) voted in favor of motion.

Sen. Butler (55th), Sen. Halpern (39th), Sen. Hatchett (50th), Sen. Hufstetler (52nd), Sen. Orrock (36th), and Sen. Walker (20th) voted against the motion.

Committee Recommendation: HB 141 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 41 3116S)

NOTE: Sen. Walker (20th) left at 2:00 p.m.

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

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

NOTE: Sen. Kennedy (18th) left at 2:15 p.m.

HB 645 (Rep. Gravley, 67th, LC 33 8681) Crimes and offenses; medical cannabis; update and revise provisions.

The Chair recognized Rep. Micah Gravley (67th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Gravley (67th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public.

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Brandee Bickle, Georgia's Own
Andrew Turnage, Medical GA Cannabis Commission
Chuck Clay, Hall Booth
Reverend Gregory Karl Davis

Testimony in opposition to the bill:

Gregg Raduka, "Let's Get Clear Georgia"
Ginger Kester, "Let's Get Clear Georgia"
Cathy Wendholt, "Let's Get Clear Georgia"
Luke Niforatos, SAM
Stuart Gitlow, APTPAD

NOTE: Sen. Dolezal (27th) left at 2:29 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Halpern (39th) left at 2:32 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Hufstetler (52nd) left at 2:33 p.m.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Orrock (36th) who made a motion to insert the word "shall" on line 270. Sen. Au (48th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair stated his preference not to vote on a previously discussed amendment proposed by Sen. Orrock. (36th). There was no objection.

The Chair indicated his preference that the adopted amendment be included in a perfected committee substitute.

NOTE: Sen. Hufstetler (52nd) returned at 2:37 p.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Orrock (36th) who made a motion that **HB 645 Do Pass By Substitute**. Sen. Au (48th) seconded the motion. The motion failed by a vote of 1-6.

Sen. Orrock (36th) voted in favor of motion.

Sen. Au (48th), Sen. Butler (55th), Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Hatchett (50th), Sen. Hufstetler (52nd), and Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) voted against the motion.

Committee Recommendation: HB 645 (LC 33 8765S) No action was taken.

Chairman Watson (1st) adjourned the meeting at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Ben Watson (1st), Chairman

/s/ Leighton Kennedy, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Tuesday, March 23, 2021**

The Senate Committee on Health and Human Services met on Tuesday, March 23, 2021, at 2:15 p.m., in Room 450 of the State Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Ben Watson (1st), Chairman
Sen. Dean Burke (11th), Vice-Chairman (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th), Secretary (*Left Early*)
Sen. Michelle Au (48th)
Sen. Gloria Butler (55th)
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th)
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd)
Sen. Lester Jackson (2nd)
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd)
Sen. Nan Orrock (36th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. John Kennedy (18th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Larry Walker (20th), Ex-Officio

NOTE: Sen. Halpern (39th) was absent.

Chairman Watson (1st) called the meeting to order.

NOTE: Sen. Orrock (36th) arrived at 2:25 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Cowsert (46th) arrived at 2:27 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Burke (11th) arrived at 2:33 p.m.

[HB 605](#) (Rep. Cooper, 43rd, LC 33 8718S) Health; provide for authorized electronic monitoring in long-term care facilities.

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 comments from the public.

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Josh Belinfante, GHCA

Nancy Pitro, AARP

Lana Laurie, Watkins & Laurie

Melanie McNeil, DHS

Kathy Floyd, GA Council of Aging

Joe Hood, DCH
Brandy Sylvan, DCH
Jenny Helms, Leading Age, GA
Skin Edge, GA Senior Living Assoc.

Testimony in opposition to the bill:

Mike Prieto, GTLA
Jim Dempsey, private citizen
The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Burke (11th) who made a motion that **HB 605 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 33 8801S)**. Sen. Kennedy (18th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 7-6.

Sen. Burke (11th), Sen. Dolezal (27th), Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd), Sen. Kennedy (18th), and Sen. Walker (20th) voted in favor of motion. Sen. Watson (1st) broke the tie in favor of the motion.

Sen. Au (48th), Sen. Butler (55th), Sen. Hatchett (50th), Sen. Hufstetler (52nd), Sen. Jackson (2nd), and Sen. Orrock (36th) voted against the motion.

Committee Recommendation: HB 605 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 33 8801S)

NOTE: Sen. Burke (11th) left at 3:05 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Burke (11th) returned at 3:08 p.m.

[HB 458](#) (Rep. Cooper, 43rd, LC 33 8685S) Georgia Composite Medical Board; require certain training relating to sexual misconduct for members.

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

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Burke (11th) who made a motion that **HB 458 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 33 8757S)**. Sen. Hufstetler (52nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 12-0.

Sen. Burke (11th), Sen. Dolezal (27th), Sen. Au (48th), Sen. Butler (55th), Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Hatchett (50th), Sen. Hufstetler (52nd), Sen. Jackson (2nd), Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd), Sen. Orrock (36th), Sen. Kennedy (18th), and Sen. Walker (20th) voted in favor of motion.

Committee Recommendation: HB 458 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 33 8757S)

HB 539 (Rep. Cooper, 43rd, LC 33 8561) **Medical Practice Act of the State of Georgia; institutional licenses; revise provisions.**

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

NOTE: Sen. Orrock (36th) left at 3:22 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Orrock (36th) returned at 3:26 p.m.

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public.

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Dan Snipes, GA Trial Lawyers Assoc.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) who made a motion that **HB 539 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 33 8778S)**. Sen. Burke (11th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 7-5.

Sen. Burke (11th), Sen. Dolezal (27th), Sen. Au (48th), Sen. Cowser (46th), Sen. Hufstetler (52nd), Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd), Sen. Kennedy (18th), and voted in favor of motion.

Sen. Butler (55th), Sen. Hatchett (50th), Sen. Jackson (2nd), Sen. Orrock (36th), and Sen. Walker (20th) voted against the motion.

Committee Recommendation: HB 539 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 33 8778S)

NOTE: Sen. Dolezal (27th) left at 3:38 p.m.

HB 653 (Rep. Jasperse, 11th, LC 33 8745S) **Georgia Pharmacy Practice Act; pharmacy care; revise definition.**

The Chair recognized Rep. Rick Jasperse (11th) for the purpose of presenting the bill.
Rep. Jasperse (11th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public.

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Greg Reibold, GPHA
Thomas Beusse, GA Retailers

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Burke (11th) who made a motion that **HB 653 Do Pass (LC 33 8745S)**. Sen. Walker (20th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 11-0.

Sen. Burke (11th), Sen. Au (48th), Sen. Butler (55th), Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Hatchett (50th), Sen. Hufstetler (52nd), Sen. Jackson (2nd), Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd), Sen. Orrock (36th), Sen. Kennedy (18th), and Sen. Walker (20th) voted in favor of motion.

Committee Recommendation: HB 653 Do Pass (LC 33 8745S)

Chairman Watson (1st) adjourned the meeting at 3:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th), Secretary

/s/ Leighton Kennedy, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Wednesday, March 24, 2021**

The Senate Committee on Health and Human Services met on Wednesday, March 24, 2021, at 4:00 p.m., in Room 450 of the State Capitol. The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Sen. Ben Watson (1st), Chairman
Sen. Dean Burke (11th), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th), Secretary (*Left Early*)
Sen. Michelle Au (48th)
Sen. Gloria Butler (55th)
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th)
Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th) (*Left Early*)
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd)
Sen. Lester Jackson (2nd)
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd)
Sen. Nan Orrock (36th)
Sen. John Kennedy (18th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Larry Walker (20th), Ex-Officio (*Left Early*)

NOTE: Sen. Sonya Halpern (39th) was absent.

Chairman Watson (1st) called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

[HB 369](#) (Rep. Powell, 32nd, LC 33 8727) Physicians; job description submission to Georgia Composite Medical Board; provisions.

The Chair recognized Rep. Alan Powell (32nd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Powell (32nd) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Burke (11th) who made a motion to strike the phrase “and shall only include” and insert in its place the phrase “or any” on line 155; to strike the word “if” and insert in its place “except” on line 156; to strike the phrase “an initial” and insert in its place “a single” on lines 182 and 270; to delete the sentences on lines 187 – 189, and 275 – 277. Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair indicated his preference that the adopted amendment be included in a perfected committee substitute.

The Chair recognized Sen. Kennedy (18th) who made a motion that **HB 369 Do Pass By Substitute**. Sen. Burke (11th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 10-2.

Sen. Burke (11th), Sen. Dolezal (27th), Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Hatchett (50th), Sen. Hufstetler (52nd), Sen. Jackson (2nd), Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd), Sen. Orrock (36th), Sen. Kennedy (18th), and Sen. Walker (20th) voted in favor of motion.

Sen. Au (48th) and Sen. Butler (55th) voted against the motion.

NOTE: Sen. Cowsert (46th) left at 5:11 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Cowsert (46th) returned at 5:18 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Dolezal (27th) left 5:22 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Walker (20th) left at 5:33 p.m.

Committee Recommendation: HB 369 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 33 8814S)

HB 290 (Rep. Setzler, 35th, LC 33 8808ERS) Hospitals and nursing homes; policy during a declared public health emergency that limits patients' abilities to be visited by designated family members and friends; provisions.

NOTE: Sen. Dolezal (27th) returned at 5:37 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Kennedy (18th) left at 5:42 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Kennedy (18th) returned at 5:43 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Butler (55th) left at 5:45 p.m.

The Chair recognized Rep. Ed Setzler (35th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Setzler (35th) presented the bill to the Committee.

NOTE: Sen. Butler (55th) returned at 6:02 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Hatchett (50th) left at 6:04 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Hatchett (50th) returned at 6:05 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Hatchett (50th) left at 6:06 p.m.

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public.

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Brittany Ellison, Family Policy Alliance

Debbie Gwattney, private citizen

Mike Griffin, GA Baptist Mission Board

Lori Ciminelli, private citizen

Rep. Bonnie Rich
Mary Clauson, “advocate”
Virginia Galloway, Faith & Family Coalition

Testimony in opposition to the bill:

Dana Lloyd, GAO
Anna Adams, GHA
Jill Case-Wirth, Wellstar
Dr. Robert Jansen, Grady
Deb Bailey, NE Georgia Health System
Julie Windom, Atrium Health Navicent
Tim Kibler, GA Alliance of Community Hospitals
Marylea Quinn

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair made a motion to strike the term “physical” on lines 86 and 120; to strike the phrase “provided, however” and inserting in its place the phrase “including, but not limited to requirements” on lines 87 and 122; to add the word “only” on lines 101 and 139; to strike lines 104 – 111 and 142 – 149. Sen. Kennedy (18th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 9-1.

Sen. Burke (11th), Sen. Au (48th), Sen. Butler (55th), Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Hufstetler (52nd), Sen. Jackson (2nd), Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd), Sen. Orrock (36th), and Sen. Kennedy (18th) voted in favor of motion.

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

The Chair made a motion to strike the term “physical” on lines 73, 75, and 81. Sen. Kennedy (18th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 9-1.

Sen. Burke (11th), Sen. Au (48th), Sen. Butler (55th), Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Hufstetler (52nd), Sen. Jackson (2nd), Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd), Sen. Orrock (36th), and Sen. Kennedy (18th) voted in favor of motion.

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

The Chair recognized Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) who made a motion to strike the phrase “up to 48 hours” on lines 81 – 92; to strike the word “for” and inserting in its place the phrase “including but not limited to” on line 78; to strike the word “physical” on line 63. Sen. Orrock (36th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 9-1.

Sen. Burke (11th), Sen. Au (48th), Sen. Butler (55th), Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Hufstetler (52nd), Sen. Jackson (2nd), Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd), Sen. Orrock (36th), and Sen. Kennedy (18th) voted in favor of motion.

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

The Chair recognized Sen. Burke (11th) who made a motion to strike lines 26 through 37; strike “(3)” on line 38 and inserting in its place “(1)”;

strike “(4)” on line 41 and inserting it in its place “(2)”;

strike lines 44 through 150; strike lines 159 and 160; strike line 161 and inserting in its place “31-7-432.” Sen. Orrock (36th) seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-3.

Sen. Burke (11th), Sen. Au (48th), Sen. Butler (55th), Sen. Hufstetler (52nd), Sen. Jackson (2nd), Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd), Sen. Orrock (36th), and voted in favor of motion.

Sen. Dolezal (27th), Sen. Cowsert (46th), and Sen. Kennedy (18th) voted against the motion.

The Chair indicated his preference that the adopted amendments be included in a perfected committee substitute.

The Chair recognized Sen. Orrock (36th) who made a motion that **HB 290 Do Pass By Substitute**. Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 9-1.

Sen. Burke (11th), Sen. Dolezal (27th), Sen. Au (48th), Sen. Butler (55th), Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Jackson (2nd), Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd), Sen. Orrock (36th), and Sen. Kennedy (18th) voted in favor of motion.

Sen. Hufstetler (52nd) voted against the motion.

Committee Recommendation: HB 290 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 33 8818S)

NOTE: Sen. Dolezal (27th) departed at 6:17 p.m.

[HB 128](#) (Rep. Williams, 145th, LC 46 0360) Health; prohibit providers from discriminating against potential organ transplant recipients due solely to the physical or mental disability of the potential recipient.

The Chair recognized Rep. Rick Williams (145th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Williams (145th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public.

Testimony in favor of the bill:

Erin & David Nobles, private citizens

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Burke (11th) who made a motion that **HB 128 Do Pass (LC 46 0360)**. Sen. Kennedy (18th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 9-0.

Sen. Burke (11th), Sen. Au (48th), Sen. Butler (55th), Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Hufstetler (52nd), Sen. Jackson (2nd), Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd), Sen. Orrock (36th), and Sen. Kennedy (18th) voted in favor of motion.

Committee Recommendation: HB 128 Do Pass (LC 46 0360)

HB 117 (Rep. Wilensky, 79th, LC 33 8472) Low THC Oil Patient Registry; ulcerative colitis as a condition for which low THC oil may be used for treatment; add.

The Chair recognized Sen. 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.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Burke (11th) who made a motion that **HB 117 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 28 0342S)**. Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 9-0.

Sen. Burke (11th), Sen. Au (48th), Sen. Butler (55th), Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Hufstetler (52nd), Sen. Jackson (2nd), Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd), Sen. Orrock (36th), and Sen. Kennedy (18th) voted in favor of motion.

Committee Recommendation: HB 117 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 28 0342S)

HB 645 (Rep. Gravely, 67th, LC 33 8681) Crimes and offenses; medical cannabis; update and revise provisions.

The Chair recognized Sen. Matt Brass (28th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Brass (28th) presented the bill to the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for comments from the public.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Hufstetler (52nd) who made a motion that **HB 645 Do Not Pass (LC 33 8806S)**. Sen. Cowsert (46th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 6-3.

Sen. Butler (55th), Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Hufstetler (52nd), Sen. Jackson (2nd), Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd), and Sen. Kennedy (18th) voted in favor of motion.

Sen. Burke (11th), Sen. Au (48th), and Sen. Orrock (36th) voted against the motion.

Committee Recommendation: HB 645 Do Not Pass (LC 33 8806S)

Chairman Watson (1st) adjourned the meeting at 7:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Ben Watson (1st), Chairman

/s/ Leighton Kennedy, Recording Secretary