

THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

2022 ROSTER

Sen. Ben Watson, Chairman
District 1
325-A CLOB
Atlanta, GA 30334

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

Sen. Dean Burke, Vice-Chairman
District 11
1608 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, Suite 200
Alpharetta, GA 30005

Sen. Lester Jackson
District 2
1501 Abercorn Street
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Sen. Michelle Au
District 48
319-B CLOB
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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

THE 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 & Human Services
Wednesday, January 26, 2022**

The Senate Committee on Health & Human Services met on Wednesday, January 26, 2022 at 1:00 PM 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)
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd)
Sen. John Kennedy (18th) (Ex-Officio)
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd)
Sen. Nan Orrock (36th)
Sen. Larry Walker, III (20th) (Ex-Officio) (*Arrived Late*)

NOTE: Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th), Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th), and Sen. Lester Jackson (2nd) were absent.

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

NOTE: Sen. Walker (20th) arrived at 1:11 p.m.

[HB 305](#) (Rep. Hawkins, 27th, LC 33 8530) “Professions and businesses; massage therapy; revise a definition”; revise a provision relating to continuing education requirements

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. He recognized the following:

Testimony in favor of the Bill:
Stan Jones of Nelson Mullins

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:
None

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Orrock (36th), who made a motion that **HB 305 Do Pass (LC 33 8530)**. Sen Walker (20th) 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. Halpern (39th), Sen. Hufstetler (52nd), Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd), Sen. Orrock (36th), and Sen. Walker, III (20th) voted in favor of the motion.

Committee Recommendation: HB 305 DO PASS (LC 33 8530)

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

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Kaylon Day, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Health & Human Services
Tuesday, February 1st, 2022**

The Senate Committee on Health & Human Services met on Tuesday, February 1st, 2022 at 2:00 PM 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)
Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th) (*Left Early*)
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd)
Sen. Lester Jackson (2nd)
Sen. John Kennedy (18th) (Ex-Officio)
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd)
Sen. Nan Orrock (36th)
Sen. Larry Walker, III (20th) (Ex-Officio)

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

Chairman Watson (1st) called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m.

[SB 338](#) (Sen. Burke, 11th, LC 33 8916) “Postpartum coverage under Medicaid from six months to one year”

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. He recognized the following:

Testimony in favor of the Bill:

Ky Lindberg of Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies
Kate Boyenger of the Georgia OBGYN Society
Polly McKinney of Voices for Georgia’s Children
Jesse Weathington of Georgia Association of Health Plans
Tina Marie Marsden of American Heart Association

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:

None

NOTE: Sen. Hatchett (50th) left at 2:27 p.m.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Walker (20th) who made a motion that **SB 338 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 33 8975S)**. Sen. Orrock (36th) 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. Halpern (39th), Sen. Hufstetler (52nd), Sen. Jackson (2nd), Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd), Sen. Orrock (36th), and Sen. Walker, III (20th) voted in favor of the motion.

Committee Recommendation: SB 338 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 33 8975S)

SB 340 (Sen. Kirkpatrick, 32nd, LC 33 8844) Hospital Authorities and Designated Teaching Hospitals”; revise definitions

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 debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Burke (11th) who made a motion that **SB 340 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 37 8974S)**. Sen. Kennedy (18th) 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. Halpern (39th), Sen. Hufstetler (52nd), Sen. Jackson (2nd), Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd), Sen. Orrock (36th), and Sen. Walker, III (20th) voted in favor of the motion.

Committee Recommendation: SB 340 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 33 8974S)

Chairman Watson (1st) adjourned the meeting at 2:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Kaylon Day, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Health & Human Services
Wednesday, February 9th, 2022**

The Senate Committee on Health & Human Services met on Wednesday, February 9, 2022 at 10:00 AM 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. Bo Hatchett (50th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd)
Sen. Lester Jackson (2nd)
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd)
Sen. Nan Orrock (36th)
Sen. Larry Walker, III (20th) (Ex-Officio)

NOTE: Sen. John Kennedy (18th) was absent.

Chairman Watson (1st) called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

NOTE: Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th) arrived at 10:11 a.m.

**[SB 456](#) (Sen. Thompson, 14th, LC 33 8893) “Women’s Health and Safety Act”;
requirements relating to the use of abortion-inducing drugs**

The Chair recognized Sen. Bruce Thompson (14th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Thompson (14th) presented the bill to the committee.

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

NOTE: Sen. Burke (11th) left at 10:15 a.m.

Testimony in favor of the Bill:

Elizabeth Reed of Georgia Life Alliance
Katie Glenn of Americans United for Life
Mike Griffin of Georgia Baptist Mission Board Public Affairs
Lisa Kinnemore of Georgia Life Alliance

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:

Kay Agbebiyi of Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity
Missy Kottke of The Georgia OBGYN Society

John Walraven of Georgia Governmental Affairs
Kai Johnson of If/When/How Reproductive Justice
Staci Fox of Planned Parenthood Southeast
Coco Papy of Planned Parenthood Southeast
Neka Ewulonu of ALCU of Georgia General Assembly
Yemi Tonnelt of Amplify GA
Allison Coffman of Amplify GA
Michelle Bennett of Amplify GA
Anne Patterson of The Georgia OBGYN Society

NOTE: Sen. Burke (11th) returned at 10:20 a.m.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Hatchett (50th) who made a motion amend the bill by inserting after “matters” on line 4 “to provide for a short title” and to insert between lines 5 and 6 “This Act shall be known and may be cited as the ‘Womens Health and Safety Act’” and to designate Sections 1 and 2 as Section 2 and 3, respectively. Sen. Burke (11th) seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-5.

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

Sen. Au (48th), Sen. Butler (55th), Sen. Halpern (39th), Sen. Jackson (2nd), and Sen. Orrock (36th) voted against the motion.

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 305 Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Dolezal (27th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 7-5.

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

Sen. Au (48th), Sen. Butler (55th), Sen. Halpern (39th), Sen. Jackson (2nd), and Sen. Orrock (36th) voted against the motion.

Committee Recommendation: SB 456 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 33 9008S)

Chairman Watson (1st) adjourned the meeting at 11:04 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Kaylon Day, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Health & Human Services
Wednesday, February 9, 2022**

The Senate Committee on Health & Human Services met on Wednesday, February 9, 2022 at 1:00 PM 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) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Gloria Butler (55th)
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th)
Sen. Sonya Halpern (39th)
Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th)
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd)
Sen. Lester Jackson (2nd)
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd)
Sen. Nan Orrock (36th)

NOTE: Sen. Larry Walker, III (20th) and Sen. John Kennedy (18th) were absent.

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

NOTE: Sen. Au (48th) arrived at 1:06 p.m.

SB 403 (Sen. Watson, 1st, LC 33 8931) “Georgia Behavioral Health and Peace Officer Co-Responder Act”; enact

Sen. Burke (11th), assumed the Chair, to allow Sen. Watson (1st) to present the bill.

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

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

Testimony in favor of the Bill:

Retired Judge David Sweat of Georgia’s Western Judicial Circuit
Dr. Mark Johnson of Gateway Behavioral Health Services
Major Robert Gavin of Savannah Police Department
Tammy Conlin of Advantage Behavioral Health Systems
Cindy Levi of Avita Community Partners
Sheriff Ron Freeman of Forsyth County Police Department
Terry Norris of Georgia Sherriff Association
Jeff Breedlove of the GA Council on Substance Abuse

Testimony in opposition to the bill:

Dan Snipes of Georgia Trial Lawyers Association

The Vice-Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Dolezal (27th) who made a motion that **HB 403 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 33 9007S)**. 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. Jackson (2nd), Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd), Sen. Orrock (36th), and Sen. Watson (1st) voted in favor of the motion.

Committee Recommendation: HB 403 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 33 9007S)

Vice-Chairman Burke (11th) adjourned the meeting at 2:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Kaylon Day, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Health & Human Services
Tuesday, February 22, 2022**

The Senate Committee on Health & Human Services met on Tuesday, February 22, 2022 at 2:00 PM 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) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th)
Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th)
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd)
Sen. John Kennedy (18th) (Ex-Officio)
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd)
Sen. Nan Orrock (36th)
Sen. Larry Walker, III (20th) (Ex-Officio), (*Arrived Late*)

NOTE: Sen. Sonya Halpern (39th) and Sen. Lester Jackson (2nd) were absent.

Chairman Watson (1st) called the meeting to order at 2:08 p.m.

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

[SB 496](#) (Sen. Burke, 11th, LC 33 8995) “Medical Examiner inquiry when a pregnant female dies”; require

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

NOTE: Sen. Butler (55th) arrived at 2:39 p.m.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) who made a motion that **HB 496 Do Pass by Substitute (LC 33 9035S)**. Sen. Hufstetler (52nd) 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. Hatchett (50th), Sen. Hufstetler (52nd), Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd), Sen. Orrock (36th), and Sen. Walker, III (20th) voted in favor of the motion.

Committee Recommendation: HB 496 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 33 9035S)

Chairman Watson (1st) adjourned the meeting at 2:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Kaylon Day, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Senate Committee on Health & Human Services
Wednesday, February 23, 2022

The Senate Committee on Health & Human Services met on Wednesday, February 23, 2022 at 1:00 PM 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. Bo Hatchett (50th)
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd) (*Left Early*)
Sen. John Kennedy (18th) (Ex-Officio)
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd)
Sen. Nan Orrock (36th), (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Larry Walker, III (20th) (Ex-Officio)

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

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

NOTE: Sen. Orrock (36th) arrived at 1:09 p.m.

[SB 345](#) (Sen. Mullis, 53rd, LC 44 1772) “Prohibiting state and local governments from mandating COVID vaccine passports”; prohibit

The Chair recognized Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd) presented the bill to the committee.

At the request of the Chair, Anna Adams of the Georgia Hospital Association addressed the committee on the potential impact of the bill on hospitals.

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

Testimony in favor of the Bill:

Sue Francis, retired Georgia educator
Lori Ciminelli, Atlanta resident
Taylor Hawkins of Frontline Policy
Christy McCranie, Atlanta resident

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:

Brandt Lewis of New Georgia Program

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

NOTE: Sen. Hufstetler left at 1:47 p.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Walker (20th) who made a motion to amend the bill by inserting “(c) This Code section shall not apply if compliance with this Code section would require an agency to violate one or more regulations of the Federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.” The lines that were previously in section (c) have been retitled section (d). Sen. Dolezal (27th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

The Chair recognized Sen. Dolezal (27th) who made a motion that **SB 345 Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Hatchett (50th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 7-4.

Sen. Burke (11th), Sen. Dolezal (27th), Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Hatchett (50th), Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd), and Sen. Walker, III (20th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Au (48th), Sen. Butler (55th), Sen. Halpern (39th), and Sen. Orrock (36th) voted against the motion.

Committee Recommendation: SB 345 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 52 0104S)

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

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Kaylon Day, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Health & Human Services
Wednesday, March 2, 2022**

The Senate Committee on Health & Human Services met on Wednesday, March 2, 2022 at 1:00 PM 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. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd)
Sen. John Kennedy (18th) (Ex-Officio) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd)
Sen. Nan Orrock (36th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Larry Walker, III (20th) (Ex-Officio)

NOTE: Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th), Sen. Sonya Halpern (39th), Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th), Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th) and Sen. Lester Jackson (2nd) were absent.

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

NOTE: Sen. Orrock (36th) arrived at 1:10 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Kennedy (18th) arrived at 1:11 p.m.

HB 1086 (Rep. Dempsey, 13th, LC 33 8927) “Influenza vaccinations for discharged patients”; lower age to 50

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

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Burke (11th) who made a motion that **HB 1086 Do Pass (LC 33 8927)**. Sen. Hufstetler (52nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 8-0.

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

Committee Recommendation: HB 1086 DO PASS (LC 33 8927)

Chairman Watson (1st) adjourned the meeting at 1:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Kaylon Day, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Health & Human Services
Tuesday, March 8, 2022**

The Senate Committee on Health & Human Services met on Tuesday, March 8, 2022 at 2:00 PM 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*) (*Left Early*)
Sen. Sonya Halpern (39th)
Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th)
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd)
Sen. Lester Jackson (2nd)
Sen. John Kennedy (18th) (Ex-Officio)
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd)
Sen. Nan Orrock (36th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Larry Walker, III (20th) (Ex-Officio)

Chairman Watson (1st) called the meeting to order at 2:07 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Orrock (36th) arrived at 2:13 p.m.

SR 584 (Sen. Jackson, 41st, LC 124 0194) “Maternal Mental Health Day”; recognize May 4th

In the absence of Sen. Kim Jackson (41st) the Chair recognized Sen. Au (48th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Au (48th) presented the bill to the committee.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Au (48th) who made a motion to amend line 1 by striking “in Georgia” and adding “at the capitol” in replacement. Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

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

The Chair recognized Sen. Halpern (39th) who made a motion that **SR 584 Do Pass By Substitute**. Sen. Kennedy (18th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Committee Recommendation: SR 584 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 33 9093S)

SB 573 (Sen. Brass, 28th, LC 33 9055) “Protect patients and health care workers from the hazards of surgical smoke”; require

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 debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) who made a motion that **SB 573 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 33 9092S)**. Sen Au (28th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 12-0.

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

Committee Recommendation: SB 573 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 33 9092S)

NOTE: Sen. Cowsert (46th) arrived at 2:31 p.m

SB 609 (Sen. Mullis, 53rd, LC 33 9077) “Medical Cannabis”; Georgia Access to Medical Cannabis Commission is subject to state procurement laws

The Chair recognized Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Mullis (53rd) presented the bill to the committee.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Walker (20th) who made a motion that **SB 609 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 33 9090S)**. Sen. Burke (11th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 8-5.

Sen. Burke (11th), Sen. Dolezal (27th), Sen. Au (48th), Sen. Hatchett (50th), Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd), Sen. Orrock (36th), and Sen. Walker, III (20th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Butler (55th), Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Halpern (39th), Sen. Hufstetler (52nd), Sen. Jackson (2nd) and voted against the motion.

Committee Recommendation: SB 609 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 33 9090S)

NOTE: Sen. Cowsert (46th) left at 2:55 p.m

SB 610 (Sen. Harrell, 40th, LC 33 9056) “Conduct a comprehensive review of provider reimbursement rates for home and community based services covered by the waiver programs”; require

The Chair recognized Sen. Sally Harrell (40th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Harrell (40th) presented the bill to the committee.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Halpern (39th) who made a motion that **SB 610 Do Pass (LC 33 9056)**. Sen. Orrock (36th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Committee Recommendation: SB 610 DO PASS (LC 33 9056)

SB 539 (Sen. Hatchett, 50th, LC 33 9011) “Use of any device to photograph or record patients in a health care facility shall be unlawful”; provide

The Chair recognized Sen. Hatchett (50th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Sen. Hatchett (50th) presented the bill to the committee.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Kennedy (18th) who made a motion that **SB 539 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 33 9086S)**. Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Committee Recommendation: SB 539 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 33 9086S)

Chairman Watson (1st) adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Kaylon Day, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Health & Human Services
Wednesday, March 14, 2022**

The Senate Committee on Health & Human Services met on Wednesday, March 14, 2022 at 3:00 PM 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) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Sonya Halpern (39th)
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Lester Jackson (2nd)
Sen. John Kennedy (18th) (Ex-Officio) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Nan Orrock (36th)

NOTE: Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th), Sen. Brian Strickland (17th), Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th), and Sen. Larry Walker (20th) were absent.

Chairman Watson (1st) called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

HB 1013 (Rep. Ralston, 7th, LC 33 9075S) “Mental Health Parity Act”; enact

The Chair stated HB 1013 will be receiving a hearing only and the bill will be assigned to the Senate Health & Human Services Subcommittee on Mental Health Parity.

The Chair announced the creation of the Subcommittee on Mental Health Parity. The Subcommittee will be chaired by Sen. Burke (11th) and members of the Subcommittee will include: Sen. Au (48th), Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Strickland (17th) and Sen. Watson (1st). Copies of their letters of appointment are attached.

In the absence of Rep. Ralston (7th), the Chair recognized Rep. Jones (25th) and Rep. Oliver (82nd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Jones (25th) and Rep. Oliver (82nd) presented the bill to the committee.

NOTE: Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) arrived at 3:19 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Burke (11th) left at 3:20 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Hufstetler (52nd) arrived at 3:23 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Burke (11th) came back at 3:32 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Cowsert (46th) arrived at 3:35 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Kennedy (18th) arrived at 3:45 p.m.

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

Testimony in favor of the Bill:

Jeff Breedlove of Georgia Council of Substance Abuse

Kim Jones of the National Alliance on Mental Illness

Dr. Ayo Gatheen of the Black Rose Foundation for Children

Kylynn Wells of the Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students

Dr. Erika Fener-Stikoff of the Voices for Georgia's Children

Helen Robinson of the Carter Center

Clint Muller of the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia

Whitney Griggs of the Georgians for a Healthy Future

Bethany Sherrer of the Medical Association of Georgia

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:

Rhonda Thomas of Truth in Education

Gina Roberson, concerned Cobb County parent

Jan Marrow, concerned citizen

Committee Recommendation: HB 1013 (LC 33 9075S) No action was taken.

Chairman Watson (1st) adjourned the meeting at 4:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Kaylon Day, Recording Secretary

SENATOR BEN WATSON, MD
District 1
325-A Coverdell Legislative Office Building
18 Capitol Square, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30334
Tel: (404) 656-7880

Ben.Watson@senate.ga.gov



The State Senate
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

COMMITTEES:

Health and Human Services, Chairman
Appropriations, Sub-Committee Chair
Judiciary
Transportation
Insurance and Labor, Ex-Officio
Veterans, Military, and Homeland Security,
Ex-Officio

March 11th, 2022

Senator Dean Burke
421-B State Capitol
Atlanta, Georgia, 30334

Senator Burke,

Your leadership is respectfully requested to Chair the Senate Health and Human Services Subcommittee on Mental Health Parity. The tentative meeting dates are as follows:

Wednesday, March 16th

Thursday, March 17th

Please let me know at your soonest convenience if you accept your position on the subcommittee at Ben.Watson@senate.ga.gov or call (404)-656-7880.

Sincerely,

Senator Ben Watson, M.D.
Senate Health & Human Services Committee, Chairman
District 1

SENATOR BEN WATSON, MD
District 1
325-A Coverdell Legislative Office Building
18 Capitol Square, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30334
Tel: (404) 656-7880

Ben.Watson@senate.ga.gov



The State Senate
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

COMMITTEES:

Health and Human Services, Chairman
Appropriations, Sub-Committee Chair
Judiciary
Transportation
Insurance and Labor, Ex-Officio
Veterans, Military, and Homeland Security,
Ex-Officio

March 11th, 2022

Senator John F. Kennedy
421-D State Capitol
Atlanta, Georgia, 30334

Senator Kennedy,

Your membership is respectfully requested on the Senate Health and Human Services Subcommittee on Mental Health Parity. The tentative meeting dates are as follows:

Wednesday, March 16th

Thursday, March 17th

Please let me know at your soonest convenience if you accept your position on the subcommittee at Ben.Watson@senate.ga.gov or call (404)-656-7880.

Sincerely,

Senator Ben Watson, M.D.
Senate Health & Human Services Committee, Chairman
District 1

SENATOR BEN WATSON, MD
District 1
325-A Coverdell Legislative Office Building
18 Capitol Square, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30334
Tel: (404) 656-7880

Ben.Watson@senate.ga.gov



The State Senate
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

COMMITTEES:

Health and Human Services, Chairman
Appropriations, Sub-Committee Chair
Judiciary
Transportation
Insurance and Labor, Ex-Officio
Veterans, Military, and Homeland Security,
Ex-Officio

March 11th, 2022

Senator Brian Strickland
324-B CLOB
Atlanta, Georgia, 30334

Senator Strickland,

Your membership is respectfully requested on the Senate Health and Human Services Subcommittee on Mental Health Parity. The tentative meeting dates are as follows:

Wednesday, March 16th

Thursday, March 17th

Please let me know at your soonest convenience if you accept your position on the subcommittee at Ben.Watson@senate.ga.gov or call (404)-656-7880.

Sincerely,

Senator Ben Watson, M.D.
Senate Health & Human Services Committee, Chairman
District 1

SENATOR BEN WATSON, MD
District 1
325-A Coverdell Legislative Office Building
18 Capitol Square, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30334
Tel: (404) 656-7880

Ben.Watson@senate.ga.gov



The State Senate
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

COMMITTEES:

Health and Human Services, Chairman
Appropriations, Sub-Committee Chair
Judiciary
Transportation
Insurance and Labor, Ex-Officio
Veterans, Military, and Homeland Security,
Ex-Officio

March 11th, 2022

Senator Michelle Au
319-A CLOB
Atlanta, Georgia, 30334

Senator Au,

Your membership is respectfully requested on the Senate Health and Human Services Subcommittee on Mental Health Parity. The tentative meeting dates are as follows:

Wednesday, March 16th

Thursday, March 17th

Please let me know at your soonest convenience if you accept your position on the subcommittee at Ben.Watson@senate.ga.gov or call (404)-656-7880.

Sincerely,

Senator Ben Watson, M.D.
Senate Health & Human Services Committee, Chairman
District 1

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Health & Human Services
Wednesday, March 16, 2022**

The Senate Committee on Health & Human Services met on Wednesday, March 16, 2022 at 9:00 AM 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. Bo Hatchett (50th)
Sen. Sonya Halpern (39th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Lester Jackson (2nd)
Sen. John Kennedy (18th) (Ex-Officio) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd)
Sen. Nan Orrock (36th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Larry Walker, III (20th) (Ex-Officio)

NOTE: Sen. Strickland (17th) was appointed as an Ex-Officio member of the Committee, for the period March 11 – April 4. A copy of his letter of appointment is attached.

NOTE: Sen. Gloria Butler (55th) Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd), Sen. Brian Strickland (17th) and Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th) were absent.

Chairman Watson (1st) called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m.

NOTE: Sen. Kennedy (18th) and Sen. Jackson (2nd) arrived at 9:11 a.m.

[HB 1186](#) (Rep. Houston, 170th, LC 49 0828S) “Speech-language pathologists and audiologists”; revise licensing provisions

The Chair recognized Rep. Penny Houston (170th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Houston (170th) presented the bill to the committee.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Walker (20th) who made a motion that **HB 1186 Do Pass (LC 49 0828S)**. Sen. Hatchett (50th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Sen. Burke (11th), Sen. Au (48th), Sen. Jackson (2nd), Sen. Dolezal (27th), Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd), Sen. Hatchett (50th), and Sen. Walker, III (20th) voted in favor of the motion.

Committee Recommendation: HB 1186 DO PASS (LC 49 0828S)

NOTE: Sen. Orrock (36th) arrived at 9:15 a.m.

NOTE: Sen. Halpern (39th) arrived at 9:16 a.m.

**HB 1355 (Rep. Dempsey, 13th, LC 33 8986) “Childhood Lead Exposure Control Act”;
revise**

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

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

Testimony in favor of the Bill:

Kylynn Wells of Georgia Education Alliance of Ready Students
Jazmine Boucard of Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta
Elizabeth Appley of 9 to 5 Georgia

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:

None

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

At the request of the Chair, Megan Andrews of the Georgia Department of Public Health clarified the effects of lead in children and the abatement process.

Committee Recommendation: HB 1355 (LC 33 8986) No action was taken.

Chairman Watson (1st) adjourned the meeting at 9:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Kaylon Day, Recording Secretary



OFFICE OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

240 STATE CAPITOL
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334

GEOFF DUNCAN
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

March 11, 2022

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

Dear Mr. Cook,

In accordance with the Senate Rules, I hereby appoint **Senator Brian Strickland** to serve as an **Ex-Officio** for the **Senate Health and Human Services Committee** from March 11, 2022 to April 4, 2022.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Geoff Duncan".

Geoff Duncan
Lt. Governor of Georgia

cc: Appointee
Legislative Fiscal Office
Committee Chairman

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON
MENTAL HEALTH PARITY
Wednesday, March 16th, 2022**

The Subcommittee on Mental Health Parity of the Senate Committee on Health & Human Services met on Wednesday, March 16th, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 450 of the State Capitol. The following members were in attendance:

Sen. Dean Burke (11th), Chairman
Sen. Michelle Au (48th)
Sen. John Kennedy (18th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Brian Strickland (17th)
Sen. Ben Watson (1st)

NOTE: Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd) also attended.

Chairman Burke (11th) called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

HB 1013: (Rep. Ralston, 7th, LC 33 9075S) Mental Health Parity Act; enact

The Chair opened the floor for questions from the Committee and the public.

NOTE: Sen. Kennedy (18th) arrived at 10:20 a.m.

The Chair recognized Rep. Todd Jones (25th), Rep. Mary Margaret Oliver (82nd), and Commissioner Dr. Brenda Fitzgerald (DPH) for the purpose of presenting and discussing the bill.

Testimony in Favor of the Bill:

Tom Clements, American Psychiatric Association
Jesse Weathington, Georgia Association of Health Plans
David Shilcutt, Georgia Association of Health Plans
Erin Boyn, National MS Society of Georgia
Rolyn Dame, Georgia Foundation of Suicide Prevention

Testimony in Opposition to the Bill:

None

The Chair announced no action would be taken on **HB 1013** during the meeting.

Committee Recommendation: HB 1013 No Action Taken (LC 33 9075S)

Chairman Burke (11th) adjourned the meeting at 10:59 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Dean Burke (11th), Chairman

/s/ Kylynn Gallagher, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON
MENTAL HEALTH PARITY
Thursday, March 17th, 2022**

The Subcommittee on Mental Health Parity of the Senate Committee on Health & Human Services met on Thursday, March 17th, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. in Room 450 of the State Capitol. The following members were in attendance:

Sen. Dean Burke (11th), Chairman
Sen. Michelle Au (48th)
Sen. John Kennedy (18th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Brian Strickland (17th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Ben Watson (1st)

NOTE: Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd) attended.

Chairman Burke (11th) called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Strickland (17th) arrived at 1:04 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Kennedy (18th) arrived at 1:05 p.m.

HB 1013: (Rep. Ralston, 7th, LC 33 9075S) Mental Health Parity Act; enact

The Chair opened the floor for questions from the Committee and the public.

The Chair recognized Rep. Mary Margaret Oliver (82nd) for the purpose of presenting and discussing the bill.

Testimony in Favor of the Bill:

Dr. Eickleberger, Clayton State University
Bethany Sherrer, Medical Association of Georgia
Fay Fulton, Georgia Academy of Family Physicians
Dr. Terri McFadden, Georgia Board for Healthcare Workforce
Natalie Crawford, concerned citizen

Testimony in Opposition to the Bill:

Rhonda Thomas, Truth in Education

The Chair announced no action would be taken on **HB 1013** during the meeting.

Committee Recommendation: HB 1013 No Action Taken (LC 33 9075S)

Chairman Burke (11th) adjourned the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Dean Burke (11th), Chairman

/s/ Klynn Gallagher, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON
MENTAL HEALTH PARITY
Monday, March 21st, 2022**

The Subcommittee on Mental Health Parity of the Senate Committee on Health & Human Services met on Monday, March 21st, 2022 at 3:00 p.m. in Room 450 of the State Capitol. The following members were in attendance:

Sen. Dean Burke (11th), Chairman
Sen. Michelle Au (48th)
Sen. Brian Strickland (17th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Ben Watson (1st)

NOTE: Sen. John Kennedy (18th) was absent.

NOTE: Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd) attended.

Chairman Burke (11th) called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.m.

HB 1013: (Rep. Ralston, 7th, LC 33 9075S) Mental Health Parity Act; enact

The Chair opened the floor for questions from the Committee and the public.

The Chair recognized Rep. Mary Margaret Oliver (82nd) and Rep. Todd Jones (25th) for the purpose of presenting and discussing the bill.

Testimony in Favor of the Bill:

Monica Johnson, Director of Division of Behavioral Health
Monica Patel, Chief Legal Officer DBHDD
Judge Sarah Harris, Probate Judge of DBHDD Council
Jenny Norris, GA Sherriff Association
Butch Ayers, GA Assoc. Chief of Police
Jill Travis, GACDL
Jeff Breedlove, Georgia Council on Substance Abuse

Testimony in Opposition to the Bill

Brant Meadows, concerned citizen
Mary Clawson, Protect Student Health
Ginger Bradshaw, concerned citizen
Rhonda Thomas, Truth and Education
Victoria Salvia, concerned citizen
Huff Croxton, local probate attorney

The Chair announced no action would be taken on **HB 1013** during the meeting.

Committee Recommendation: HB 1013 None Taken (LC 33 9075S)

Chairman Burke (11th) adjourned the meeting at 4:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Dean Burke (11th), Chairman

/s/ Klynn Gallagher, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Health & Human Services
Tuesday, March 22, 2022**

The Senate Committee on Health & Human Services met on Tuesday, March 22, 2022 at 2:00 PM 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. Michelle Au (48th)
Sen. Gloria Butler (55th)
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Sonya Halpern (39th)
Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th)
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd)
Sen. John Kennedy (18th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Nan Orrock (36th)

NOTE: Sen. Brian Strickland (17th), Sen. Larry Walker (20th), Sen. Dean Burke (11th), and Sen. Lester Jackson (2nd) were absent.

Chairman Watson (1st) called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Cowsert (46th) arrived at 2:07 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Kennedy (18th) arrived at 2:10 p.m.

[HB 412](#) (Rep. Dempsey, 13th, LC 33 8873S) “Licensure of individuals in the practice of applied behavior analysis”; provide

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

NOTE: Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) arrived at 2:26 p.m.

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

Testimony in favor of the Bill:

Dr. Michelle Zeanah of Behavioral Pediatrics of Rural Georgia

Dr. Colin Muething of the Georgia Association of Behavior Analysts

Anna Bullard, Ava’s Law advocate

Jenna Meldin, Mother of an autistic child

Jamila Pope of Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta & the Marcus Autism Center

Tom Bauer of the Georgia Occupational Therapy Association

Crystal Stubbs, Mother of autistic child

Tabitha Burkhart-Wilson of the Kentucky Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:

None

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Au (48th) who made the motion to amend the bill by changing language on line 81 from “shall” to “should endeavor to”. Sen. Orrock (36th) seconded the motion. The motion failed 4-5.

Sen. Au (48th), Sen. Butler (55th), Sen. Halpern (39th), and Sen. Orrock (36th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Dolezal (27th), Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Hufstetler (52nd), Sen. Kennedy (18th) and Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) voted against the motion.

The Chair recognized Sen. Dolezal (27th) who made the motion to amend the bill by striking lines 80-81 of the bill. Sen. Kennedy (18th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 5-4.

Sen. Dolezal (27th), Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Hufstetler (52nd), Sen. Kennedy (18th) and Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Au (48th), Sen. Butler (55th), Sen. Halpern (39th), and Sen. Orrock (36th) voted against motion.

The Chair indicated his preference that the adopted amendment by incorporated into a perfected committee substitute.

The Chair recognized Sen. Halpern (39th) who made a motion that **HB 412 Do Pass By Substitute**. Sen. Orrock (36th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: HB 412 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 33 9129S)

HB 1069 (Rep. Williamson, 115th, LC 33 9088S) “Adult mental health programs”; provide licensure

The Chair recognized Rep. Bruce Williamson (115th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Williamson (115th) presented the bill to the committee.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Hufstetler (52nd) who made a motion that **HB 1069 Do Pass (LC 33 9088S)**. Sen. Kennedy (18th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: HB 1069 DO PASS (LC 33 9088S)

HB 1425 (Rep. Werkheiser, 157th, LC 33 9107S) “Governor to issue initial Class 1 and Class 2 production licenses for a limited time period”; authorize

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 debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Kennedy (18th) who made a motion that **HB 1425 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 33 9130S)**. Sen. Dolezal (27th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Recommendation: HB 1425 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 33 9130S)

Chairman Watson (1st) adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Kaylon Day, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Health & Human Services
Wednesday, March 23, 2022**

The Senate Committee on Health & Human Services met on Wednesday, March 23, 2022 at 1:00 PM 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. Michelle Au (48th)
Sen. Gloria Butler (55th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th)
Sen. Sonya Halpern (39th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th)
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd)
Sen. Lester Jackson (2nd)
Sen. John Kennedy (18th) (Ex-Officio)
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd)
Sen. Nan Orrock (36th)
Sen. Larry Walker, III (20th) (Ex-Officio) (*Left Early*)

NOTE: Sen. Brian Strickland (17th) and Sen. Greg Dolezal (27th) were absent.

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

NOTE: Sen. Butler (55th) and Sen. Halpern (39th) arrived at 1:07 p.m.

**[HB 1355](#) (Rep. Dempsey, 13th, LC 33 8986) “Childhood Lead Exposure Control Act”;
revise**

NOTE: Sen. Jackson (2nd) left at 1:10 pm.

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

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

NOTE: Sen. Jackson (2nd) returned at 1:19 pm.

The Chair recognized Sen. Kennedy (18th) who made the motion to amend the bill by replacing the language on line 182 with “owners of residential property that accept compensation for the use of residential property by another;” Sen. Hatchett (50th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 9-2.

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

Sen. Jackson (2nd) and Sen. Orrock (36th) voted against the motion.

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

The Chair recognized Sen. Hufstetler (52nd) who made a motion that **HB 1355 Do Pass By Substitute**. Sen. Kennedy (18th) seconded the motion. The motion passed 10-1.

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

Sen. Walker (20th) voted against the motion.

Committee Recommendation: HB 1355 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 33 9135S)

HB 937 (Rep. Henderson, 113th, LC 33 9111S) “Coverage for annual mammograms at no cost to recipient; provide”

NOTE: Sen. Jackson (2nd) left at 1:28 pm.

The Chair recognized Rep. Sharon Henderson (113th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Henderson (113th) presented the bill to the committee.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Orrock (36th) who made a motion that **HB 937 Do Pass (LC 33 9111S)**. Sen. Halpern (39th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 10-0.

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

Committee Recommendation: HB 937 DO PASS (LC 33 9111S)

HB 1219 (Rep. Houston, 170th, LC 33 9012S) “Georgia Board of Dentistry; revise composition”

NOTE: Sen. Walker (20th) left at 1:40 pm.

NOTE: Sen. Jackson (2nd) returned at 1:44 pm.

NOTE: Sen. Burke (11th) arrived at 1:46 pm.

The Chair recognized Rep. Penny Houston (170th) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Houston (170th) presented the bill to the committee.

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

Testimony in favor of the Bill:

Ashton Blackwood of Augusta University
Christy Smith of the Dental Hygienists of Georgia

Testimony in opposition to the Bill:

None

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) who made a motion that **HB 1219 Do Pass (LC 33 9012S)**. Sen. Hatchett (50th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 6-5.

Sen. Burke (11th), Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Hatchett (2nd), Sen. Hufstetler (52nd), Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd), voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Au (48th), Sen. Butler (55th), Sen. Halpern (39th), Sen. Orrock (36th), and Sen. Jackson (2nd) voted against the motion.

Committee Recommendation: HB 1219 DO PASS (LC 33 9012S)

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

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Kaylon Day, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON
MENTAL HEALTH PARITY
Wednesday, March 23rd, 2022**

The Subcommittee on Mental Health Parity of the Senate Committee on Health & Human Services met on Wednesday, March 23rd, 2022 at 3:00 p.m. in Room 450 of the State Capitol. The following members were in attendance:

Sen. Dean Burke (11th), Chairman
Sen. Michelle Au (48th)
Sen. John Kennedy (18th)
Sen. Brian Strickland (17th)
Sen. Ben Watson (1st)

NOTE: Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd) attended.

Chairman Burke (11th) called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

HB 1013: (Rep. Ralston, 7th, LC 33 9075S) Mental Health Parity Act; enact

The Chair opened the floor for questions from the Committee and the public.

The Chair recognized Rep. Mary Margaret Oliver (82nd) and Rep. Todd Jones (25th) for the purpose of presenting and discussing the bill regarding Section 4 and Section 5 of the bill.

Testimony in Favor of the Bill:

Sheriff Ron Freeman, Forsyth County
Dr. Dan Salinas, Community Clinical Integration and Children's Healthcare of Atlanta
Judge Susan Tate, Athens Clark County Probate
Judge David Sweat, Gwinnett County Courts
Richard Ward, Georgia Chapter of American Pediatrics
Chris Johnson, concerned citizen
Kim Jones, NAMI GA

Testimony in Opposition to the Bill

Dr. Mai Li Dong, concerned citizen
Lisa Shaw, concerned citizen
Alan Brady, concerned citizen
Kisha Lee, concerned citizen

The Chair announced no action would be taken on HB 1013 during the meeting.

Committee Recommendation: HB 1013 No Action Taken (LC 33 9075S)

Chairman Burke (11th) adjourned the meeting at 4:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sen. Dean Burke (11th), Chairman

/s/ Klynn Gallagher, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Health & Human Services
Monday, March 28, 2022**

The Senate Committee on Health & Human Services met on Monday, March 28, 2022 at 5:00 PM 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. Bo Hatchett (50th)
Sen. Sonya Halpern (39th)
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd)
Sen. Lester Jackson (2nd)
Sen. John Kennedy (18th) (Ex-Officio)
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd)
Sen. Brian Strickland (17th) (Ex-Officio)
Sen. Nan Orrock (36th)
Sen. Larry Walker, III (20th) (Ex-Officio)

Chairman Watson (1st) called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

The Chair recognized Sen. Burke (11th) to thank the Subcommittee members and officially dissolve the Senate Subcommittee on Mental Health Parity.

[HB 1013](#) (Rep. Ralston, 7th, LC 33 9075S) “Mental Health Parity Act”; enact

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 debate and amendment.

The Chair made a motion to amend the bill by striking the word “tracking” on line 1241. Sen. Burke (11th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Sen. Burke (11th), Sen. Dolezal (27th), Sen. Au (48th), Sen. Butler (55th), Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Hatchett (50th), Sen. Halpern (39th), Sen. Hufstetler (52nd), Sen. Jackson (2nd), Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd), Sen. Strickland (17th), Sen. Orrock (36th), and Sen. Walker (20th) voted in favor of the motion.

The Chair indicated his preference that the adopted amendment be incorporated into a new committee substitute.

The Chair recognized Sen. Burke (11th) who made a motion that **HB 1013 Do Pass By Substitute**. Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Sen. Burke (11th), Sen. Dolezal (27th), Sen. Au (48th), Sen. Butler (55th), Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Hatchett (50th), Sen. Halpern (39th), Sen. Hufstetler (52nd), Sen. Jackson (2nd), Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd), Sen. Strickland (17th), Sen. Orrock (36th), and Sen. Walker (20th) voted in favor of the motion.

Committee Recommendation: HB 1013 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 33 9152S)

Chairman Watson (1st) adjourned the meeting at 6:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Kaylon Day, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the Senate Committee on Health & Human Services
Tuesday, March 29, 2022**

The Senate Committee on Health & Human Services met on Tuesday, January 29, 2022 at 2:00 PM 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 (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Michelle Au (48th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Gloria Butler (55th)
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Sonya Halpern (39th) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd)
Sen. John Kennedy (18th) (Ex-Officio) (*Arrived Late*)
Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd)
Sen. Nan Orrock (36th)
Sen. Larry Walker, III (20th) (Ex-Officio)

NOTE: Sen. Bo Hatchett (50th), Sen. Brian Strickland (17th), and Sen. Lester Jackson (2nd) were absent.

Chairman Watson (1st) called the meeting to order at 2:28 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Au (48th) arrived at 2:29 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Halpern (39th) arrived at 2:31 p.m.

[HB 1533](#) (Rep. Newton, 123rd, LC 33 9099S) “Professional programs that address career fatigue and wellness in healthcare professionals are not obligated to report to licensing boards except in certain circumstances”; provide

The Chair recognized Rep. Mark Newton (123rd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Newton (123rd) presented the bill to the committee.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Burke (11th) who made a motion that **HB 1533 Do Pass (LC 33 9099S)**. Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Committee Recommendation: HB 1533 DO PASS (LC 33 9099S)

[HB 1042](#) (Rep. Jasperse, 11th, LC 50 0304) “OneGeorgia Authority Act”; grant program to establish primary care medical facilities in health professional shortage areas; provide

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

NOTE: Sen. Kennedy (18th) arrived at 2:43 p.m.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Walker (20th) who made a motion that **HB 1042 Do Pass (LC 50 0304)**. Sen. Burke (11th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Committee Recommendation: HB 1042 DO PASS (LC 50 0304)

[HB 1304](#) (Rep. Hawkins, 27th, LC 54 0060S) “Georgia Caregivers Act”; create

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 debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd) who made a motion that **HB 1304 Do Pass (LC 54 0060S)**. Sen. Orrock (36th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Committee Recommendation: HB 1304 DO PASS (LC 54 0060S)

[HB 1484](#) (Rep. Hawkins, 27th, LC 33 9096S) “Three-year pilot program to provide coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of PANDAS and PANS under Medicaid”; provide

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

NOTE: Sen. Dolezal (27th) arrived at 2:49 p.m.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Orrock (36th) who made a motion that **HB 1484 Do Pass (LC 33 9096S)**. Sen. Halpern (39th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Committee Recommendation: HB 1484 DO PASS (LC 33 9096S)

HB 697 (Rep. Newton, 123rd, LC 46 0424) “Health care data collection”; hospitals maintain certain technology; provisions

NOTE: Sen. Cowsert (46th) arrived at 2:58 p.m.

The Chair recognized Rep. Newton (123rd) for the purpose of presenting the bill. Rep. Newton (123rd) presented the bill to the committee.

The Chair opened the floor for debate and amendment.

The Chair recognized Sen. Halpern (39th) who made the motion to table HB 697. Sen. Butler (55th) seconded the motion. The motion failed by a vote of 6-6.

Sen. Au (48th), Sen. Butler (55th), Sen. Halpern (39th), Sen. Burke (11th), Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd), Sen. Orrock (36th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Dolezal (27th), Sen. Hufstetler (52nd), Sen. Kennedy (18th), and Sen. Walker (20th) voted against the motion.

The Chair then voted against the motion to make a tie.

The Chair recognized Sen. Dolezal (27th) who made a motion that **HB 697 Do Pass By Substitute (LC 33 9144S)**. Sen. Cowsert (46th) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 6-5.

Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Dolezal (27th), Sen. Hufstetler (52nd), Sen. Kennedy (18th), Sen. Kirkpatrick (32nd), and Sen. Walker (20th) voted in favor of the motion.

Sen. Au (48th), Sen. Butler (55th), Sen. Halpern (39th), Sen. Burke (11th), Sen. Orrock (36th) voted against the motion.

Committee Recommendation: HB 697 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 33 9144S)

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

Respectfully submitted,

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

/s/ Kaylon Day, Recording Secretary