

This week at the General Assembly saw leaders of the House and Senate complete appointments of members to the various standing committees, and next week will see the beginnings of normal committee activity. Below I will discuss the appointees to the House Insurance Committee and the Senate Commerce Committee. You will recall that it is the Commerce Committee which generally considers matters relating to insurance in the Senate.

There are 18 members of the **House Insurance Committee**. There are 11 Democrats on the Committee and 7 Republicans. The roster of members is as follows:

Chairman, Rep. Bruce Goforth (D-Asheville)	Vice Chairman, Rep. Mitchell Setzer (R-Catawba)
Chairman, Rep. Michael Wray (D-Gaston)	Vice Chairman, Rep. Jerry Dockham (Davidson)
Vice Chairman, Rep. Margaret Highsmith Dickson (D-Fayetteville)	Rep. Jeff Barnhart (R-Concord)
Rep. Nelson Cole (D-Rockingham)	Rep. John Blust (R-Greensboro)
Rep. Bill Faison (D-Durham)	Rep. Harold Brubaker (R-Asheboro)
Rep. Pryor Gibson (D-Wadesboro)	Rep. William Current (R-Gastonia)
Rep. Hugh Holliman (D-Lexington)	Rep. Julia Howard (R-Mocksville)
Rep. Sandra Spaulding Hughes (D-Wilmington)	
Rep. Garland Pierce (D-Wagram)	
Rep. William Wainwright (D-Havelock)	
Rep. Jane Whilden (D-Asheville)	

The **Senate Commerce Committee** is comprised of 30 legislators, 19 of whom are Democrats and 11 of whom are Republicans. Below is a listing of the members of Senate Commerce:

Chairman R.C. Soles. (D-Tabor City)	Sen. Tom Apodoca (R-Hendersonville)
Vice Chairman David Hoyle (D-Gaston)	Sen. Phil Berger (R-Eden)
Vice Chairman, Sen. Floyd McKissick (D-Durham)	Sen. Harris Blake (R-Pinehurst)
Vice Chairman, Tony Rand (D-Fayetteville)	Sen. Pete Brunstetter (R-Lewisville)
Sen. Doug Berger (D-Youngsville)	Sen. Debbie Clary (R-Shelby)
Sen. Julia Boseman (D-Wilmington)	Sen. Eddie Goodall (R-Matthews)
Sen. Katie Dorsett (D-Greensboro)	Sen. Jim Forrester (R-Stanly)
Sen. Tony Foriest (D-Graham)	Sen. Neal Hunt (R-Raleigh)
Sen. Lynda Garrou (D-Winston-Salem)	Sen. Jim Jacumin (R-Connelly Springs)
Sen. Steve Goss (D-Boone)	Sen. Bob Rucho (R-Mecklenburg)
Sen. Malcolm Graham (D-Charlotte)	Sen. Richard Stevens (R-Wake)
Sen. Clark Jenkins (D-Tarboro)	
Sen. Vernon Malone (D-Raleigh)	

Sen. Martin Nesbitt (D-Asheville) Sen. Bill Purcell (D-Laurinburg) Sen. Joe Sam Queen (D-Waynesville) Sen. Josh Stein (D-Wake) Sen. Larry Shaw (D-Cumberland) Sen. Don Vaughan (D-Guilford)	
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On Monday, February 16, Senator Fletcher Hartsell (R-Concord) will introduce **S.B. 165 – State Review of Group Insurance Claims**. This legislation would require the Department of Insurance to develop a state review process of all group insurance claims. The DOI, in collaboration with Health and Human Services, would develop a State Claims Review process for group insurance claims that are denied or refused by either insurers or employers. Please note that the DOI would be given “regulatory authority to make benefit determinations in relation to group insurance policies through this claims review process.” The DOI is to report on its proposal for reviewing group insurance claims on or before March 1, 2010. I would appreciate receiving your thoughts and comments on Senator Hartsell’s bill.

Senate Commerce will meet for the first time next week. Currently on its agenda is a proposed ban on the use of cell phones while driving (**SB 12**).

All else is quiet, at least for the time being. Please let me know if you have any questions about members of either the House Insurance or Senate Commerce committees. I will continue to stay in touch as this legislative session continues.

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