

House Bill 339

By: Representative Richardson of the 26th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 33 of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 health records, so as to provide that copies of health records may be requested by a patient's
3 authorized agent; to provide a time period in which such records must be furnished; to
4 provide a penalty for failing to comply with the provisions of law concerning the provision
5 of health records; to provide for a maximum cost for such records; to repeal conflicting laws;
6 and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Chapter 33 of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to health records,
10 is amended by striking subsection (a) of Code Section 31-33-2, relating to furnishing a copy
11 of records to the patient or a provider, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new
12 subsection (a), and by adding a new subsection (d) to read as follows:

13 "(a) Upon written request from the patient or the patient's authorized agent, the provider
14 having custody and control of the patient's record shall furnish a complete and current copy
15 of that record, in accordance with the provisions of this Code section, within a reasonable
16 period of time not to exceed 30 days from the receipt of the request or, if the provider
17 requires payment before furnishing the records, 30 days from the receipt of the payment,
18 whichever is later."

19 "(d) Any person who knowingly violates this Code section shall be guilty of a
20 misdemeanor and may be punished as provided by law."

21 **SECTION 2.**

22 Said chapter is further amended by striking subsection (a) of Code Section 31-33-3, relating
23 to costs of copying and mailing, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection
24 (a) to read as follows:

1 "(a) The party requesting the patient's records shall be responsible to the provider for the
2 reasonable costs of copying and mailing the patient's record. The provider shall not charge
3 more than 50¢ per page for copying the records. Payment of such costs may be required
4 by the provider prior to the records being furnished. This subsection shall not apply to
5 records requested in order to make or complete an application for a disability benefits
6 program."

7 **SECTION 3.**

8 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.