

House Bill 525

By: Representatives Harrell of the 62nd, Unterman of the 84th, McClinton of the 68th, Channell of the 111th and Lord of the 121st

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 33-24-58.2 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 health benefit policy coverage for certain maternity benefits, so as to change the provisions
3 regarding required notices; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

5 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

6 Code Section 33-24-58.2 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to health
7 benefit policy coverage for certain maternity benefits, is amended by striking subsection (f)
8 thereof and inserting in its place the following:

9 "(f) Every insurer shall provide notice to policyholders regarding the coverage required by
10 this Code section ~~and any rules and regulations promulgated by the Commissioner relating~~
11 ~~to this Code section.~~ The notice shall be in writing and ~~prominently positioned in any of~~
12 ~~the following literature:~~

13 (1) ~~The next mailing to the policyholder;~~

14 (2) ~~The yearly informational packets sent to the policyholder; or~~

15 (3) ~~Other literature mailed before January 1, 1997~~ sent to the policyholder within 30 days
16 following the time the insurer first learns that the policyholder or person covered by the
17 health benefit policy is pregnant. The notice shall be in substantially the following form:

18 style="text-align:center">NOTICE

19 The Newborn Baby and Mother Protection Act (Code Section 33-24-58.2 of the
20 O.C.G.A.) requires that health benefit policies which provide maternity benefits must
21 provide coverage for a minimum of 48 hours of inpatient care following a normal vaginal
22 delivery and a minimum of 96 hours of inpatient care following a cesarean section for a
23 mother and her newborn child. The care must be provided in a licensed health care
24 facility. A decision to shorten the length of stay may be made only by the attending health

1 care provider after conferring with the mother. If the stay is shortened, coverage must
2 be provided for up to two follow-up visits with specified health care providers with the
3 first visit being within 48 hours after discharge. After conferring with the mother, the
4 health care provider must determine whether the initial visit will be conducted at home
5 or at the office and whether a second visit is appropriate. Specified services are required
6 to be provided at such visits."

7 **SECTION 2.**

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