

House Bill 978

By: Representatives Harrell of the 62<sup>nd</sup>, Manning of the 32<sup>nd</sup>, McBee of the 88<sup>th</sup> and Drenner of the 66<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 1 of Chapter 7 of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
2 relating to hospitals and related institutions, so as to require that such institutions provide  
3 certain documents identifying newborn babies as eligible for medical assistance and  
4 requiring such institutions and the Department of Community Health to counsel Medicaid  
5 eligible pregnant women and those who have recently given birth to make a choice of a  
6 primary care physician; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Article 1 of Chapter 7 of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
10 hospitals and related institutions, is amended by adding after Code Section 31-7-16 a new  
11 Code section to read as follows:

12 "31-7-17.

13 (a) As used in this Code section, the term 'Medicaid recipient' means a person who is a  
14 recipient of medical assistance, as defined in Code Section 49-4-141.

15 (b) A child who is born in a hospital may not be discharged by that hospital after delivery  
16 if the child's mother is a Medicaid recipient until that mother is provided a card or other  
17 official document listing the child as a Medicaid recipient.

18 (c) The Department of Community Health shall establish procedures to ensure that  
19 pregnant women who are Medicaid recipients are counseled to make, prior to delivery of  
20 their child, a choice of a primary care physician for the mother and child. The Department  
21 of Community Health shall retain a record of any choice so made of which the department  
22 has knowledge and shall provide that record to the hospital or other facility in which the  
23 woman gives birth upon request of such facility.

24 (d) A hospital or clinic thereof which provides prenatal care to a pregnant woman who is  
25 a Medicaid recipient shall counsel that woman to choose a primary care physician for the  
26 mother and child prior to the delivery of the child. If such choice has not been made prior

1 to the admission of the woman to a hospital or other facility for delivery of the child, that  
2 facility shall counsel the woman to make such choice as soon as practical after admission  
3 and before discharge from the facility."

4 **SECTION 2.**

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