

House Bill 760

By: Representatives Harrell of the 54th, and Dooley of the 33rd, Post 3

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 1 of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 general provisions related to health, so as to provide for the advisory committee on hearing
3 in newborn infants to continue in existence until June 30, 2010; to provide for such
4 committee to focus on studying resources for intervention and treatment of infants with
5 hearing losses; to provide for automatic repeal; to provide for related matters; to repeal
6 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Chapter 1 of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to general
10 provisions related to health, is amended by striking paragraphs (1) and (5) of subsection (d)
11 of Code Section 31-1-3.2, relating to hearing screenings for newborns, and inserting in their
12 respective places the following:

13 "(d)(1) There is established an advisory committee on hearing in newborn infants for the
14 purpose of studying and collecting the informational data specified in this Code section
15 and reporting such information to the General Assembly and Governor by December 1,
16 2001, and for the purpose of providing recommendations to hospitals, physicians, and
17 other health care institutions, the Department of Human Resources, and the public
18 concerning, but not limited to, the following:

19 (A) Appropriate methodologies to be implemented for hearing screening of newborn
20 infants, which methodologies shall be objective and physiologically based. An
21 audiologist licensed pursuant to Chapter 44 of Title 43 shall perform such screening and
22 a person not licensed as an audiologist may perform such screening provided such
23 screening by the unlicensed person is performed pursuant to the exception in subsection
24 (h) of Code Section 43-44-7;

25 (B) The number of births sufficient to qualify a hospital or health institution to arrange
26 otherwise for hearing screenings; ~~and~~

1 (C) Guidelines for reporting and the means to assure that identified children received
2 referral for appropriate follow-up services. The advisory committee on hearing in
3 newborn infants shall present its findings and recommendations to the Board of Human
4 Resources. Said board shall consider the findings and recommendations of such
5 advisory committee in the adoption of rules and regulations for purposes of such
6 screening; and

7 (D) Information about the availability of resources for intervention and treatment of
8 newborn infants with hearing loss and strategies for augmenting such resources to
9 assure that identified infants have access to appropriate follow-up services."

10 "(5) This subsection is automatically repealed effective July 1, ~~2005~~ 2010."

11 **SECTION 2.**

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