

The Senate Health and Human Services Committee offered the following substitute to HB 372:

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT**

1 To amend Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to health, so as to
2 provide for a county board of health and wellness to adopt rules and regulations that are not
3 in conflict with the rules and regulations of the Department of Human Resources; to provide
4 for financial assistance to students, postgraduate trainees, or the parents of such for programs
5 of study in fields in which critical personnel shortages exist in the authority's service area;
6 to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:**

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to health, is amended by striking
10 paragraph (4) of subsection (c) of Code Section 31-3-2.1, relating to option for certain
11 counties to create a board of health and wellness by ordinance, and inserting in its place the
12 following:

13 "(4) The governing authority of the county shall be authorized to adopt a system of rules,
14 regulations, and orders covering health and sanitation within the county, and such system
15 of rules, regulations, and orders may be based on recommendations by the county board
16 of health and wellness and shall not be in conflict with the rules and regulations of the
17 department. Such rules, regulations, and orders when adopted shall be recorded on the
18 minutes of the governing authority of such county, and a certified copy thereof shall be
19 furnished to the department of health and wellness of such county and to the
20 department;".

21 **SECTION 2.**

22 Said title is further amended by striking paragraph (25) of Code Section 31-7-75, relating to
23 functions and powers, and inserting in its place the following:

24 "(25) To provide financial assistance to individuals for the purpose of obtaining
25 educational training in nursing or another health care field if such individuals are

employed by, or are on an authorized leave of absence from, such authority or have committed to be employed by such authority upon completion of such educational training; to provide grants, scholarships, loans or other assistance to such individuals and to students and parents of students for programs of study in fields in which critical shortages exist in the authority's service area, whether or not they are employees of the authority; to provide for the assumption, purchase, or cancellation of repayment of any loans, together with interest and charges thereon, made for educational purposes to students, postgraduate trainees, or the parents of such students or postgraduate trainees who have completed a program of study in a field in which critical shortages exist in the authority's service area; and to provide services and financial assistance to private not for profit organizations in the form of grants and loans, with or without interest and secured or unsecured at the discretion of such authority, for any purpose related to the provision of health or medical services or related social services to citizens;".

SECTION 3.

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