

Senate Bill 503

By: Senators Stokes of the 43rd, Tate of the 38th, Seay of the 34th, Butler of the 55th,
Henson of the 41st and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 31-5A-4 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the
2 powers, duties, functions, and responsibilities of the Department of Community Health, so
3 as to create the Office of Minority Health within the Department of Community Health; to
4 provide for an advisory council to be appointed by the Governor; to provide for the functions
5 and duties of the Office of Minority Health; to provide for a full-time executive director; to
6 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 Code Section 31-5A-4 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the powers,
10 duties, functions, and responsibilities of the Department of Community Health, is amended
11 by inserting immediately following subsection (d) a new subsection (d.1) to read as follows:

12 "(d.1)(1) There is created in the department the Office of Minority Health. Attached to
13 the office shall be an 11 member advisory council. One member of the advisory council
14 shall be a representative of the Georgia State Medical Association; one member shall be
15 a representative of the Medical Association of Georgia; three members shall be appointed
16 by the Governor; three members shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of
17 Representatives; three members shall be appointed by the Lieutenant Governor; and all
18 of such appointees shall be representative of major public and private agencies and
19 organizations in the state and shall be experienced in or have demonstrated particular
20 interest in minority health issues. Each member shall be appointed for two years and until
21 his or her successor is appointed. The members shall be eligible to succeed themselves.
22 The council shall elect its chairperson from among the councilmembers for a term of two
23 years.

24 (2) The Office of Minority Health shall serve in an advisory capacity to the Governor,
25 the General Assembly, the board, the department, and all other state agencies in matters

1 relating to health issues affecting persons of minority races or ethnic groups. In
2 particular, the office shall:

3 (A) Raise awareness of specific minority group health issues;

4 (B) Inform and engage in prevention and education activities relating to minority
5 health issues;

6 (C) Serve as a clearing-house for minority health information for purposes of planning
7 and coordination;

8 (D) Issue reports of the office's activities and findings; and

9 (E) Develop and distribute a state comprehensive plan to address minority health
10 issues.

11 (3) The Office of Minority Health shall have a full-time executive director appointed by
12 the commissioner and shall be provided with staff personnel, office and meeting facilities,
13 and other necessary items by the department. The council shall meet upon the call of its
14 chairperson, the board, or the commissioner."

15 **SECTION 2.**

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