

House Bill 1679

By: Representative Harrell of the 54th

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, 2008; to provide for such
4 committee to focus on studying resources for intervention and treatment of infants with
5 hearing losses; to change certain provisions relating to the membership of such committee;
6 to provide for automatic repeal; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and
7 for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 Chapter 1 of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to general
11 provisions related to health, is amended by striking paragraphs (1), (2), and (5) of subsection
12 (d) of Code Section 31-1-3.2, relating to hearing screenings for newborns, and inserting in
13 their respective places the following:

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

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

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

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

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

12 (2) The advisory committee on hearing in newborn infants shall consist of ~~at least 11~~ no
13 more than 18 members who shall be appointed by the director of the Division of Public
14 Health of the Department of Human Resources. Such advisory committee shall be a joint
15 subcommittee of:

16 (A) The Maternal & Infant Health Council; and

17 (B) The State Interagency Coordinating Council for Early Intervention.

18 There shall be one member from each of these councils on the advisory committee.
19 Members appointed to the committee shall have training, experience, or interest in the
20 area of hearing conditions of children and shall include at least one audiologist, one
21 pediatrician, one hospital administrator from a hospital which offers perinatal services,
22 one deaf or hard of hearing adult, and one parent of a deaf or hard of hearing child. In
23 addition, the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint ~~one member~~ two
24 members from the House of Representatives, and the ~~President of the Senate~~ Committee
25 on Assignments shall appoint ~~one member~~ two members from the Senate to serve on the
26 advisory committee."

27 "(5) This subsection is automatically repealed effective July 1, ~~2005~~ 2008."

28 SECTION 2.

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