

The Senate Health and Human Services Committee offered the following substitute to HB 1709:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

To amend Article 1 of Chapter 7 of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to regulation of hospitals and related institutions, so as to provide that nursing homes annually offer an influenza virus vaccine to all medicare and Medicaid eligible patients and private pay patients and a pneumococcal bacteria vaccine to all medicare eligible and private pay patients over 65 years of age in their facilities; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

Article 1 of Chapter 7 of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to regulation of hospitals and related institutions, is amended by striking subsection (a) of Code Section 31-7-2.1, relating to rules and regulations, availability of reports of cited deficiencies, and disclosure of survey worksheets and documents, and inserting in its place the following:

"(a) The department shall adopt and promulgate such reasonable rules and regulations which in its judgment are necessary to protect the health and lives of patients and shall prescribe and set out the kind and quality of building, equipment, facilities, and institutional services which institutions shall have and use in order to properly care for their patients. Such rules and regulations shall require that all nursing homes annually offer unless contraindicated, contingent on availability, an influenza virus vaccine to all medicare and Medicaid eligible patients and private pay patients in their facilities, in accordance with the rules and regulations established pursuant to this subsection. Such rules and regulations shall also require that all nursing homes annually offer unless contraindicated, contingent on availability, a pneumococcal bacteria vaccine to all medicare eligible patients and all private pay patients, 65 years of age or older, in their facilities, in accordance with the rules and regulations established pursuant to this subsection."

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SECTION 2.

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All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.