

House Bill 1207

By: Representatives Frazier of the 123<sup>rd</sup>, Williams of the 89<sup>th</sup>, Gardner of the 57<sup>th</sup>, Buckner of the 130<sup>th</sup>, Houston of the 170<sup>th</sup>, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 3 of Title 19 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
2 marriage generally, so as to require notification of the need to obtain a standard serologic test  
3 for sickle cell anemia to an applicant for a marriage license; to provide for related matters;  
4 to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

7 Chapter 3 of Title 19 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to marriage  
8 generally, is amended by revising Code Section 19-3-40, which is reserved, to read as  
9 follows:

10 "19-3-40.

11 (a) As used in this Code section, the term 'standard serologic test for sickle cell anemia'  
12 means a test for sickle cell anemia approved by the Department of Human Resources.

13 (b) The Department of Human Resources shall prepare a brochure describing the  
14 inheritable hemoglobin type of sickle cell anemia which may convey the sickle cell anemia  
15 trait or the sickle cell anemia disease to the offspring of a carrier and recommending that  
16 each applicant for a marriage license obtain a standard serologic test for sickle cell anemia  
17 prior to obtaining such license. The department shall prepare a form for acknowledging  
18 that such brochure has been received by the applicant. The brochure and form prepared by  
19 the department shall be prepared and furnished to the office of each judge of the probate  
20 court no later than October 1, 2008. On and after October 1, 2008, each person who makes  
21 application for a marriage license shall receive from the office of the probate judge at the  
22 time of the application the sickle cell brochure prepared and furnished pursuant to this  
23 subsection.

24 (c) On and after October 1, 2008, each person who applies for a marriage license shall  
25 present to the judge of the probate court a signed form acknowledging that he or she has  
26 received the sickle cell anemia brochure furnished pursuant to subsection (b) of this Code

1 section and that he or she is aware of the need for obtaining a standard serologic test for  
2 sickle cell anemia and the risks associated with failing to obtain such test.  
3 (d) The forms shall be filed by the judge of the probate court. The forms may be destroyed  
4 by the judge after they have been on file for a period of at least one year after the date of  
5 filing. Reserved."

6 **SECTION 2.**

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