

Senate Bill 223

By: Senators Unterman of the 45th, Williams of the 19th, Rogers of the 21st and Goggans of the 7th

**AS PASSED SENATE**

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 health provisions, so as to create the Women's Reproductive Health Legislative  
3 Oversight Committee; to provide for its membership, terms, and meetings; to provide for its  
4 duties; to provide for cooperation with other agencies; to provide for an annual report; to  
5 provide for an audit; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other  
6 purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Chapter 1 of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to general health  
10 provisions, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

11 "31-1-10.

12 (a) There is created the Women's Reproductive Health Legislative Oversight Committee  
13 which shall be composed of ten persons: four members of the House of Representatives  
14 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, four members of the Senate  
15 appointed by the Lieutenant Governor, one member of the House of Representatives  
16 appointed by the Governor, and one member of the Senate appointed by the Governor. The  
17 initial members of such committee shall be appointed for terms beginning on July 1, 2009,  
18 and shall serve until their successors are appointed. Thereafter, the members of such  
19 committee shall be appointed within ten days after the convening of the General Assembly  
20 in each odd-numbered year and shall serve until their successors are appointed.

21 (b) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint a member of such  
22 committee to serve as chairperson, and the Lieutenant Governor shall appoint one member  
23 of the committee to serve as vice chairperson during each even-numbered year. The  
24 Lieutenant Governor shall appoint a member of such committee to serve as chairperson,  
25 and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint one member to serve as vice  
26 chairperson during each odd-numbered year. Such committee shall meet at least three

27 times each year and, upon the call of the chairperson, at such additional times as deemed  
28 necessary by the chairperson; provided, however, that in 2009, such committee shall only  
29 be required to meet one time.

30 (c) The committee shall be authorized to:

31 (1) Review the funding for and evaluate the effectiveness of all state and federally  
32 funded programs and health care providers and facilities licensed by the state that provide  
33 services related to women's reproductive health. Such services include family planning  
34 programs and teen clinics that promote abstinence skills education and counseling, sex  
35 education, contraception, access to health care, testing and treatment of sexually  
36 transmitted disease, HIV counseling and testing, pregnancy education and counseling,  
37 and any other reproductive health education. This review and evaluation shall also  
38 include accountability measures for the effectiveness of the programs as they relate to the  
39 appropriate prevention of pregnancy and to family planning; and

40 (2) Review the services provided by and programs conducted by the Office of  
41 Regulatory Services of the department and the Department of Community Health relating  
42 to licensed health care providers or facilities that provide treatments for:

43 (A) Sexually transmitted diseases;

44 (B) Abortions; and

45 (C) Follow-up health care after abortion.

46 (d) The department, Department of Community Health, and any other state agency or  
47 entity which receives state or federal funds for programs related to women's reproductive  
48 health or regulates health care providers or facilities licensed by the state shall cooperate  
49 with such committee and provide such information or reports as requested by the  
50 committee for the performance of its functions.

51 (e) The committee shall make an annual report of its activities and findings to the  
52 membership of the General Assembly and the Governor within one week of the convening  
53 of each regular session of the General Assembly. The chairperson of such committee shall  
54 deliver written executive summaries of such report to the members of the General  
55 Assembly prior to the adoption of the General Appropriations Act each year.

56 (f) The members of such committee shall receive the allowances authorized for legislative  
57 members of legislative committees. The funds necessary to pay such allowances shall  
58 come from funds appropriated to the House of Representatives and the Senate.

59 (g) The committee shall be authorized to request that a performance audit of the  
60 department be conducted with respect to the activities included in subsection (c) of this  
61 Code section."

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**SECTION 2.**

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