

House Bill 1159

By: Representatives Pruett of the 144<sup>th</sup>, Dobbs of the 53<sup>rd</sup>, Lindsey of the 54<sup>th</sup>, Gardner of the 57<sup>th</sup>, Harden of the 147<sup>th</sup>, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 1 of Chapter 1 of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
2 relating to general provisions relating to health, so as to provide for the creation of the Joint  
3 Study Commission on Education for Parents with Newborn Children; to provide for its  
4 composition and duties; to provide for the distribution of informational videos on health  
5 related topics by hospitals and other health care facilities to mothers of newborn infants; to  
6 provide for a definition; to provide that such requirement is contingent on available funding;  
7 to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 Article 1 of Chapter 1 of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
11 general provisions relating to health, is amended by adding new Code sections to read as  
12 follows:

13 "31-1-14.

14 (a) In order to reduce childhood obesity in our state, increase the quality of health of  
15 Georgia's children, reduce health care costs, and educate parents of newborn children, a  
16 Joint Study Commission on Education for Parents with Newborn Children shall be created.  
17 The commission shall undertake a study to determine how best to gather information, raise  
18 funds, and create a comprehensive informational video which shall include but not be  
19 limited to information on the prevention of childhood obesity; information to help prevent  
20 shaken baby syndrome, SIDS, and other forms of child abuse; and information which  
21 would assist parents in raising safe and healthy children. The video shall also contain a  
22 comprehensive resource guide with information, links to websites, and contact information  
23 for state and local agencies and nonprofit organizations that can help parents raise safe and  
24 healthy children. The commission shall study current laws and policies in effect in other  
25 states that may assist in the creation of the video. The commission may recommend any  
26 action or legislation the commission deems necessary or appropriate for the creation of the

27 video. The commission shall present a report on their study to the President of the Senate,  
 28 the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Governor no later than December 31,  
 29 2012. The report shall include recommendations on how best to create the video, how to  
 30 raise the funds necessary for its creation, and how to determine what information the video  
 31 shall contain. The commission may conduct such meetings at such places and at such  
 32 times as it may deem necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively  
 33 the requirements of this Code section. The commission may coordinate the creation and  
 34 production of the video after completion of the study.

35 (b)(1) The commission shall be composed as follows:

36 (A) The Senate Committee on Assignments shall appoint two members of the Senate,  
 37 one of whom shall be a member of the minority party;

38 (B) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint two members of the  
 39 House of Representatives, one of whom shall be a member of the minority party;

40 (C) The commissioner of public health or his or her designee; and

41 (D) The Governor, with input from the commissioner of public health, shall appoint  
 42 two members from the hospital industry, one obstetrician/gynecologist, one  
 43 pediatrician, and other appropriate members with applicable expertise as recommended  
 44 by the commissioner of public health; provided, however, that the total number of  
 45 members of the commission shall not exceed 15 members.

46 (2) The commissioner shall serve as the chairperson of the commission.

47 31-1-15.

48 (a) As used in this Code section, the term 'health facility' means a hospital, birthing center,  
 49 or other health care facility where children are born on a regular and ongoing basis.

50 (b)(1) Subject to available funding pursuant to subsection (c) of this Code section, the  
 51 department shall distribute informational videos in an appropriate format to each health  
 52 facility in order to provide the information described in Code Section 31-1-14 and in this  
 53 Code section to each mother of an infant born in such health facility. To the extent  
 54 feasible, each health facility shall provide an opportunity for each mother of a newborn  
 55 infant to view the video while in the health facility. Each health facility shall also  
 56 provide a copy of such video, as furnished by the department, to the parent or parents of  
 57 a newborn at the time of discharge from the health facility.

58 (2) Such videos shall include information on proper nutrition for infants and children,  
 59 exercise needed for children, how to prevent abuse, and other health related topics  
 60 beneficial to the parents of a newborn child. All information included in the video shall  
 61 be approved by the department. The department shall produce and duplicate such videos  
 62 or may accept the donation of such videos from outside sources at its discretion.

63 (c) This Code section shall be subject to available funding to the department for such  
64 purposes. Federal funding or private donations may be used to produce, copy, and  
65 distribute the videos provided pursuant to this Code section and to provide such services  
66 and information pursuant to this Code section."

67 **SECTION 2.**

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