

The House Committee on Health and Human Services offers the following substitute to HB 1159:

**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 Commission on Education for Parents with Newborn Children; to provide for its composition
4 and duties; to provide for the distribution of informational videos on health related topics by
5 hospitals and other health care facilities to mothers of newborn infants; to provide for a
6 definition; to provide that such requirement is contingent on available funding; to provide
7 for automatic repeal under certain conditions; to provide for related matters; to provide for
8 an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

9 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:**

10 **SECTION 1.**

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

14 "31-1-14.

15 (a) In order to reduce childhood obesity in our state, increase the quality of health of
16 Georgia's children, reduce health care costs, and educate parents of newborn children, a
17 Joint Commission on Education for Parents with Newborn Children, hereinafter referred
18 to as the 'commission,' shall be created. The commission shall determine how best to
19 gather information, raise funds, and create or purchase one or more informational videos
20 to provide information which would assist parents in raising safe and healthy children, such
21 as information on the prevention of childhood obesity, the prevention of SIDS, and the
22 prevention of shaken baby syndrome and other forms of child abuse. Such video or videos
23 should contain a comprehensive resource guide with information, links to websites, and
24 contact information for state and local agencies and nonprofit organizations that can assist
25 parents in raising safe and healthy children. Such video or videos should include
26 information on proper nutrition for infants and children, exercise needed for children, how

27 to prevent abuse, and other health related topics beneficial to the parents of a newborn
28 child. The commission may offer suggestions as to how the efficacy of such video or
29 videos can be evaluated and tracked. The commission shall study current laws and policies
30 in effect in other states that may assist in determining methods for the creation and for
31 measuring the efficacy of such video or videos. The commission shall present a report to
32 the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Governor
33 no later than December 31, 2012, which shall include recommendations on how best to
34 create the methods for measuring the efficacy of such video or videos, how to raise the
35 funds necessary for their creation, and how to determine what information the video or
36 videos shall contain. The commission may conduct such meetings at such places and at
37 such times as it may deem necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully and
38 effectively the requirements of this Code section. The commission shall conduct its first
39 meeting no later than 45 days after the effective date of this Code section. Members of the
40 commission shall receive no compensation for serving on the commission.

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

- 42 (A) The Senate Committee on Assignments shall appoint two members of the Senate,
43 one of whom shall be a member of the minority party;
- 44 (B) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint two members of the
45 House of Representatives, one of whom shall be a member of the minority party;
- 46 (C) The commissioner of public health or his or her designee; and
- 47 (D) The Governor, with input from the commissioner of public health, shall appoint
48 two members from the hospital industry, one obstetrician/gynecologist, one
49 pediatrician, one consumer, and other appropriate members with applicable expertise
50 as recommended by the commissioner of public health; provided, however, that the
51 total number of members of the commission shall not exceed 15 members.

52 (2) The commissioner of public health shall serve as the chairperson of the commission.

53 (c)(1) As used in this subsection, the term 'health facility' means a hospital, birthing
54 center, or other health care facility where children are born on a regular and ongoing
55 basis.

56 (2) Subject to available funding pursuant to paragraph (3) of this subsection, the
57 Department of Public Health shall distribute one or more informational videos produced
58 or purchased pursuant to subsection (a) of this Code section in an appropriate format to
59 each health facility in this state. To the extent feasible, each health facility shall provide
60 an opportunity for each mother of a newborn to view the video or videos while in the
61 health facility. Each health facility shall also provide a copy of such video or videos, as
62 furnished by the Department of Public Health, or, if funding is limited, a link to such
63 video or videos online, to the parent or parents of a newborn at the time of discharge from

the health facility. All information included in such video or videos shall be approved by the Department of Public Health.

66 (3) This subsection shall be subject to the availability of federal funds or private
67 donations received by the Department of Public Health for such purposes.

68 (d) If no federal funds or private donations are made available to the Department of Public
69 Health for the purposes of this Code section within two years from the effective date of this
70 Code section, this Code section shall stand repealed two years after the effective date of
71 this Code section."

SECTION 2.

73 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law
74 without such approval.

SECTION 3.

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