

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

64 the health facility. All information included in such video or videos shall be approved  
65 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."

72 **SECTION 2.**

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

75 **SECTION 3.**

76 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.