

Senate Bill 61

By: Senators Tate of the 38th, Henson of the 41st, Jones II of the 22nd, Seay of the 34th,  
Lucas of the 26th and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 2A of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the  
2 Department of Public Health, so as to enact the "Georgia Family Planning Initiative"; to  
3 provide for definitions; to authorize public and private funding; to provide for distribution  
4 of funds for family planning services; to provide for priority of patients and cost of services;  
5 to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Georgia Family Planning Initiative."

9 **SECTION 2.**

10 Chapter 2A of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the Department  
11 of Public Health, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

12 "31-2A-19.

13 (a) As used in this Code section, the term:

14 (1) 'Delegate agency' means district health offices, county boards of health, federally  
15 qualified health centers, hospitals, and other agencies designated by the department.

16 (2) 'Family planning services' may include long-term birth control, including but not  
17 limited to implants, intrauterine devices, vasectomies, and tubal ligations; other  
18 contraceptive methods and related counseling; breast and cervical cancer screening;  
19 pregnancy testing and counseling; screening and treatment for sexually transmitted  
20 diseases; HIV testing; and other patient education and referrals.

21 (b) There is established within the department the Georgia Family Planning Initiative  
22 program. Such program shall be authorized to receive both public and private funds for the  
23 purposes contained in this Code section.

24 (c) The program shall be authorized to distribute funds to delegate agencies to provide  
25 high-quality family planning services and related preventive health care to improve the

26 health of women and infants and to enable families to plan their children. If a particular  
27 family planning service is not available from a delegate agency, such delegate agency shall  
28 provide referral services to assure that a patient desiring such service may obtain it.

29 (d) Priority to receive family planning services pursuant to this Code section shall be given  
30 to low-income women and uninsured and underinsured patients. The cost to a patient shall  
31 be based on the patient's income and family size. No patient shall be denied services due  
32 to inability to pay. Coverage of any unexpected complications to a patient shall be the  
33 responsibility of the patient. The delegate agency shall assist patients in identifying  
34 available resources to address any such complications.

35 (e) Delegate agencies receiving funds pursuant to this Code section shall adhere to all  
36 protocols and requirements established by the department."

37 **SECTION 3.**

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