

Senate Bill 256

By: Senators Burke of the 11th, Gooch of the 51st, Watson of the 1st, Kirkpatrick of the 32nd, Hufstetler of the 52nd and others

AS PASSED SENATE

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 3 of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to county
2 boards of health, so as to clarify the selection of district health directors by the commissioner
3 of public health; to eliminate county boards of health approval of selection of district health
4 directors; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 **SECTION 1.**

7 Chapter 3 of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to county boards
8 of health, is amended by revising subsection (a) of Code Section 31-3-11, relating to
9 appointments of director and staff and supervision, as follows:

10 "(a) The district health director appointed pursuant to Code Section 31-3-15 for the health
11 district in which the county is located shall serve as the chief executive officer for the
12 county board of health shall appoint as its chief executive officer a director who shall be
13 a physician licensed to practice medicine under Chapter 34 of Title 43 and who otherwise
14 meets the requirements of the rules of the State Personnel Board. The director, subject to
15 the approval of the county board of health, shall designate aides and assistants pursuant to

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16 the budget adopted by the county board of health in accordance with Code Section
17 31-3-14."

18 **SECTION 2.**

19 Said chapter is further amended by revising Code Section 31-3-15, relating to establishment
20 of health districts, as follows:

21 "31-3-15.

22 The department is authorized, with the consent of the boards of health and the county
23 authorities of the counties involved, to establish health districts composed of one or more
24 counties. ~~The county boards of health of the constituent counties shall, at the call of the~~
25 ~~commissioner, meet in joint session to approve the selection of a director appointed by the~~
26 ~~commissioner to serve such boards in common. A county board of health is authorized to~~
27 ~~appoint one of its members to represent the board at a joint meeting for this purpose. The~~
28 director commissioner shall select a district health director for each health district who shall
29 be a physician who is licensed to practice medicine under Chapter 34 of Title 43 and who
30 otherwise meets the requirements of the rules of the State Personnel Board. Any ~~The~~
31 district health director shall have the same powers, duties, and responsibility as a director
32 serving a single county board of health. To further the purposes of this Code section,
33 county boards of health may contract with each other for the provision of multicounty
34 services and also exercise any additional powers as authorized by paragraph (7) of
35 subsection (a) of Code Section 31-3-4; and in the performance of such contracts a county
36 board of health may utilize its employees in other counties."

37 **SECTION 3.**

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