

Senate Bill 270

By: Senators Davenport of the 44th, Jordan of the 6th, Au of the 48th, Jones II of the 22nd,
Merritt of the 9th and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to health, so as to
2 provide for a pilot program to fund rural birthing centers associated with hospitals with
3 emergency departments; to define a term; to provide for the solicitation of grants of funding;
4 to provide for rules and regulations; to provide for a report; to provide for related matters;
5 to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to health, is amended in
9 Chapter 2, relating to the Department of Community Health, by adding a new Code section
10 to read as follows:

11 "31-2-17.

12 (a) As used in this Code section, the term 'rural county' means a county having a
13 population of less than 50,000 according to the United States decennial census of 2010 or
14 any future such census; provided, however, that for counties which contain a military base
15 or installation, the military personnel and their dependents living in such county shall be
16 excluded from the total population of such county for purposes of this definition.

17 (b) Subject to appropriations or other available funding, the department shall develop and
18 implement a pilot program to provide grants to fund birthing centers that are located in
19 rural counties and that are associated with hospitals with emergency departments.

20 (c) The department shall be authorized to solicit and accept grants of funding for use in
21 conducting the pilot program.

22 (d) The department is authorized to establish such rules and regulations as may be
23 necessary to implement the pilot program.

24 (e) No later than December 31, 2022, the department shall submit a detailed written report
25 on the implementation and effectiveness of the pilot program to the chairpersons of the
26 House Committee on Health and Human Services, the Senate Health and Human Services
27 Committee, the House Committee on Appropriations, and the Senate Appropriations
28 Committee. Such report shall also include recommendations as to expansion of the pilot
29 program state wide."

30 **SECTION 2.**

31 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.