

House Bill 1054

By: Representatives Thomas of the 65th, Kennard of the 102nd, Cantrell of the 22nd, Mallow of the 163rd, and Lewis-Ward of the 109th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 2 of Chapter 1 of Title 37 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to the powers and duties of the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental
3 Disabilities, so as to provide for the establishment of the Georgia Equine Therapy Recovery
4 Program; to provide for grants for the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental
5 Disabilities to administer the program; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting
6 laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Article 2 of Chapter 1 of Title 37 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the
10 powers and duties of the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities,
11 is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

12 "37-1-30.

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

14 (1) 'GETRP' means the Georgia Equine Therapy Recovery Program, as established by
15 this Code section.

16 (2) 'Licensed stable' means any building, structure, pasture, or other enclosure where
17 equines are housed that is licensed under Chapter 5 of Title 2.

18 (3) 'Military veteran' means a current, former, or retired member of the armed forces of
19 the United States, the organized militia, or a state military force of another state.

20 (b) Subject to appropriations by the General Assembly, the Department of Behavioral
21 Health and Developmental Disabilities shall establish the Georgia Equine Therapy
22 Recovery Program. The purpose of GETRP shall be to provide grants to licensed stables
23 across the state for the purpose of providing equine therapy services as treatment for
24 military veterans, adults, and children living with a disability.

25 (c) The department shall be responsible for the administration of the available equine
26 therapy services, with the duty of tracking and maintaining a database of said services.

27 (d) The department shall make reasonable efforts to advertise GETRP and the availability
28 of services and shall be responsible for creating criteria for participants of GETRP and for
29 the types of services to be offered.

30 (e) The department shall manage the financial aspects of GETRP, to include creating a
31 budget based on the fair market value of services, determining the maximum amount of
32 participants for the program, managing and making payment for services, and creating
33 quarterly reports for the Georgia General Assembly Mental Health Caucus and the
34 Department of Veterans Service."

35 **SECTION 2.**

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