

House Bill 201

By: Representatives Schofield of the 63rd, Carter of the 93rd, Scott of the 76th, Bennett of the 94th, and Hutchinson of the 106th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 1 of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 general provisions regarding health, so as to authorize the Department of Public Health to
3 carry out projects to increase education, awareness, or diagnosis of valvular heart disease and
4 to reduce the incidence of sudden cardiac death caused by valvular heart disease; to provide
5 for priority of projects for target populations; to provide for coordination with other state
6 agencies; to provide for the collection and publishing of data regarding best practices for
7 healthcare providers; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other
8 purposes.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

10 **SECTION 1.**

11 Chapter 1 of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to general
12 provisions regarding health, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

13 "31-1-25.

14 (a) The department shall carry out projects to increase education, awareness, or diagnosis
15 of valvular heart disease and to reduce the incidence of sudden cardiac death caused by
16 valvular heart disease. Such projects may be carried out by the department directly or

through awards of grants or contracts to public or nonprofit private entities. The department may directly, or through such awards, provide technical assistance with respect to the planning, development, and operation of such projects.

(b) Projects carried out under subsection (a) of this Code section may include:

(1) Continuing any activities at the department related to valvular heart disease;

(2) Broadening the awareness of the public concerning the risk factors for, the symptoms of, and the public health consequences of valvular heart disease; and

(3) Enhancing surveillance of out-of-hospital cardiac arrests to improve patient outcomes.

(c) The department may give priority to entities seeking to carry out projects that target populations most impacted by valvular heart disease in awarding grants or entering into contracts pursuant to subsection (a) of this Code section.

(d) The department shall ensure that activities under this Code section are coordinated, as appropriate, with other state agencies that carry out activities regarding valvular heart disease.

(e) The department shall:

(1) Collect and analyze the findings of research conducted with respect to valvular heart disease; and

(2) Taking into account such findings, publish on the department's website best practices for physicians and other healthcare providers who provide care to individuals with valvular heart disease."

SECTION 2.

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