

Senate Bill 293

By: Senators Watson of the 1st, Kirkpatrick of the 32nd, Walker III of the 20th, Hodges of the 3rd, Strickland of the 17th and others

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 provide that operational policies and procedures of the Department  
3 of Public Health apply to local personnel; to authorize the department to establish health  
4 districts; to revise the manner of selection and qualifications of district health directors; to  
5 provide for a chief medical officer for a health district under certain circumstances; to  
6 provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

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

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

18 and assistants pursuant to the budget adopted by the county board of health in accordance  
 19 with Code Section 31-3-14. All such aides and assistants shall be subject to and shall  
 20 follow operational policies and procedures established by the department."

21

## SECTION 2.

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

24 "31-3-15.

25 The department is authorized, ~~with the consent of the boards of health and the county~~  
 26 ~~authorities of the counties involved,~~ to establish health districts composed of one or more  
 27 counties. ~~The county boards of health of the constituent counties shall, at the call of the~~  
 28 ~~commissioner, meet in joint session to approve the selection of a director appointed by the~~  
 29 ~~commissioner to serve such boards in common. A county board of health is authorized to~~  
 30 ~~appoint one of its members to represent the board at a joint meeting for this purpose. The~~  
 31 ~~director shall be a physician who is licensed to practice medicine under Chapter 34 of~~  
 32 ~~Title 43 and who otherwise~~ The commissioner shall select a district health director for each  
 33 health district, who meets the requirements of the rules of the State Personnel Board and  
 34 the department. ~~The~~ A district health director shall have the same powers, duties, and  
 35 responsibility as a director serving a single county board of health. If a selected district  
 36 health director is not a physician licensed to practice medicine under Chapter 34 of  
 37 Title 43, such district health director shall hire or appoint a chief medical officer who is  
 38 licensed to practice medicine under Chapter 34 of Title 43. The chief medical officer shall  
 39 be responsible for overseeing the clinical programs of the county boards of health within  
 40 the health district. To further the purposes of this Code section, county boards of health  
 41 may contract with each other for the provision of multicounty services and also exercise  
 42 any additional powers as authorized by paragraph (7) of subsection (a) of Code Section

43 31-3-4; and in the performance of such contracts a county board of health may utilize its  
44 employees in other counties."

45

**SECTION 3.**

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