

House Bill 334

By: Representatives Crawford of the 89th, Oliver of the 84th, Au of the 50th, Willis of the 55th,
Westbrook of the 163rd, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 7 of Chapter 4 of Title 49 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to medical assistance generally, so as to require the Department of Community
3 Health to conduct an annual review of medications and treatment for sickle cell disease for
4 Medicaid recipients; to provide for public input; to provide for an annual report; to provide
5 for related matters; to provide for a short title; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other
6 purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Sickle Cell Disease Protection Act."

10 **SECTION 2.**

11 Article 7 of Chapter 4 of Title 49 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
12 medical assistance generally, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

13 "49-4-159.5.

14 (a) The department shall conduct an annual review of all medications, forms of treatment,
15 and services that are eligible for coverage under the Medicaid program for Medicaid

16 recipients with a diagnosis of sickle cell disease. The purpose of the annual review shall
17 be to determine if the available covered medications, treatments, and services are adequate
18 to meet the needs of Medicaid recipients with a diagnosis of sickle cell disease, and
19 whether the department should seek to add additional medications, treatments, or services.
20 (b) When conducting the annual review required by this Code section, the department shall
21 solicit and consider input from the general public, with specific emphasis on attempting to
22 receive input from persons or groups with knowledge and experience in the area of sickle
23 cell disease treatment.
24 (c) On or before January 15 of each year, the department shall submit a report to the
25 presiding officers of each house of the General Assembly, who shall forward a copy of the
26 report to the chairperson or chairpersons of the appropriate standing committee or
27 committees in each house that details the department's findings from the annual review
28 required by this Code section, as well as any recommendations based upon such findings.
29 The department shall publish the annual report required by this subsection to its public
30 website."

31 **SECTION 3.**

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