

House Bill 1217

By: Representatives Berry of the 56th, Cannon of the 58th, Jackson of the 165th, Westbrook of the 163rd, and Willis of the 55th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Title 31 and Chapter 7 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to health and the Department of Economic Development, respectively, so as to
3 require the positioning of lifeguards on public beaches during certain periods; to authorize
4 the Department of Economic Development to develop and implement a pilot program to
5 encourage high school students to become lifeguards; to provide for definitions; to provide
6 for reporting; to provide for automatic repeal; to provide for short title; to provide for related
7 matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to health, is amended by adding
11 a new chapter to read as follows:

12 "CHAPTER 45B

13 31-45B-1.

14 This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the 'Bryce Brooks Act.'

15 31-45B-2.

16 As used in this chapter, the term:

17 (1) 'Beach' means any zone of unconsolidated sand, gravel, or other material bordering
18 a body of water.

19 (2) 'Lifeguard' means an individual who has successfully completed a nationally
20 recognized lifeguard training course, holds a current certificate for such training, has met
21 all pre-service requirements, and participates in continuing in-service training as required
22 by such training course.

23 31-45B-3.

24 (a) A lifeguard shall be positioned every 150 yards on each public beach in this state at
25 identified periods of high occupancy."

26 **SECTION 3.**

27 Chapter 7 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the Department
28 of Economic Development, is amended by adding a new article to read as follows:

29 "ARTICLE 12

30 50-7-140.

31 (a) The Department of Economic Development shall develop and implement a pilot
32 program to encourage high school students to become lifeguards as such term is defined
33 in Code Section 31-45B-2. The department may delegate to its officers, agents, and
34 employees such duties as it may deem proper to carry out the purposes of this article. The
35 department may contract with any department, board, or agency of the state, local, or
36 federal government; the University System of Georgia or any of its component units; other
37 public or private colleges and universities; nonprofit organizations; foundations;

38 corporations; private business firms; and individuals as shall be consistent with the
39 purposes of this article.

40 (b) No later than December 31, 2028, the department shall submit a detailed written report
41 on the development, implementation, and effectiveness of the pilot program to the
42 Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and
43 the chairpersons of the House Committee on Health, the Senate Health and Human
44 Services Committee, the House Committee on Appropriations, and the Senate
45 Appropriations Committee. The report shall also include recommendations as to
46 expansion of the pilot program state wide.

47 (c) The pilot program created by this Code section shall terminate on January 1, 2029, and
48 this article shall stand repealed by operation of law on such date."

49 **SECTION 4.**

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