

Senate Bill 500

By: Senators Hodges of the 3rd, Watson of the 1st, Kirkpatrick of the 32nd, Walker III of the 20th, Harrell of the 40th and others

**AS PASSED**

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 10 of Title 49 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the  
2 Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce, so as to expand the Behavioral Health Care  
3 Workforce Data Base to include data from licensed health care professionals; to revise  
4 definitions; to rename such data base as the Health Care Workforce Data Base; to provide  
5 for conforming changes; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for  
6 other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Chapter 10 of Title 49 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the Georgia  
10 Board of Health Care Workforce, is amended by revising subsections (a) and (b) and  
11 paragraph (9) of subsection (d) of Code Section 49-10-5, relating to Behavioral Health Care  
12 Workforce Data Base, as follows:

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

14 (1) ~~'Addictive disease' has the same meaning as in Code Section 37-1-1~~ Reserved.

15 (2) ~~'Behavioral health care provider'~~ 'Health care professional' means any health care  
 16 ~~provider professional~~ regulated by a licensing board ~~who primarily provides treatment~~  
 17 ~~or diagnosis of mental health or substance use disorders.~~

18 (3) 'Licensing board' means:

19 (A) Georgia Composite Board of Professional Counselors, Social Workers, and  
 20 Marriage and Family Therapists;

21 (B) Georgia Board of Nursing;

22 (C) Georgia Composite Medical Board;

23 (D) State Board of Examiners of Psychologists; ~~and~~

24 (E) State Board of Pharmacy;

25 (F) Georgia Board of Dentistry;

26 (G) Georgia Board of Chiropractic Examiners;

27 (H) State Board of Optometry;

28 (I) State Board of Occupational Therapy;

29 (J) State Board of Physical Therapy;

30 (K) State Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology;

31 (L) State Board of Podiatry Examiners;

32 (M) Georgia Board of Examiners of Licensed Dietitians;

33 (N) Department of Public Health; and

34 (O) Georgia Behavior Analyst Licensing Board.

35 ~~(4) 'Mental health or substance use disorder' means a mental illness or addictive disease.~~

36 ~~(5) 'Mental illness' has the same meaning as in Code Section 37-1-1.~~

37 (b) The board shall create and maintain the Behavioral Health Care Workforce Data Base  
 38 for the purposes of collecting and analyzing minimum data set surveys for behavioral  
 39 health care professionals. To facilitate such data base, the board shall:

- 40 (1) Enter into agreements with entities to create, house, and provide information to the  
41 Governor, the General Assembly, state agencies, and the public regarding the state's  
42 behavioral health care workforce;
- 43 (2) Seek federal or other sources of funding necessary to support the creation and  
44 maintenance of a Behavioral Health Care Workforce Data Base, including any necessary  
45 staffing;
- 46 (3) Create and maintain an online dashboard accessible on the board's website to provide  
47 access to the Behavioral Health Care Workforce Data Base; and
- 48 (4) Establish a minimum data set survey to be utilized by licensing boards to collect  
49 demographic and other data from behavioral health care providers professionals which  
50 are licensed by such boards."
- 51 "(9) Types of insurance accepted and whether the provider health care professional  
52 accepts Medicaid and Medicare; and"

53

**SECTION 2.**

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