

The House Committee on Rules offers the following substitute to SB 440:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1 To amend Titles 16, 19, 31, 48, and 49 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating
2 to crimes and offenses, domestic relations, health, revenue and taxation, and social services,
3 respectively, so as to modernize and revise provisions relative to duties or functions of the
4 Department of Public Health; to eliminate certain powers of state regulatory boards
5 governing prescribers relative to the prescription drug monitoring program database; to
6 eliminate certain requirements of the Department of Public Health relative to the testing and
7 certification of such database; to repeal provisions relative to the Electronic Database Review
8 Advisory Committee; to add an exception to the classification of ivermectin as a dangerous
9 drug; to provide for requirements and rules for dispensing of ivermectin under such
10 exception; to repeal provisions relative to the preparation and distribution of informational
11 materials regarding AIDS, HIV, testing for sickle cell disease, and marriage; to revise
12 provisions relative to hearing screenings of newborns; to eliminate reporting requirements
13 of certain entities permitted to administer auto-injectable epinephrine; to eliminate certain
14 duties of the Department of Public Health relative to establishing requirements for the
15 storage and oversight of such drugs; to repeal provisions relative to a pilot program for home
16 visitation during pregnancy and early childhood; to revise certain reporting requirements of
17 the Department of Public Health regarding a program providing healthcare services to
18 low-income residents; to revise certain reporting requirements of such department relative

19 to certified stroke centers; to condition reporting requirements of the Office of Cardiac Care
20 on appropriations; to eliminate certain reporting requirements of the Department of Public
21 Health relative to infants born with neonatal abstinence syndrome; to repeal provisions
22 relative to the Cancer Advisory Committee; to eliminate the cancer control officer position;
23 to revise certain duties of the commissioner relative to a program for cancer prevention,
24 control, and treatment; to repeal the "Osteoporosis Prevention and Treatment Education Act";
25 to revise provisions related to the establishment of a network of postnatal tissue and fluid
26 banks; to repeal provisions relative to the Georgia Commission for Saving the Cure; to
27 eliminate optional taxpayer contributions to stem cell research; to repeal provisions relative
28 to the Arthritis Prevention and Control Program; to transfer certain duties of the Department
29 of Community Health relative to programs for home delivered meals to the Department of
30 Public Health; to make conforming changes; to amend Title 33 of the Official Code of
31 Georgia Annotated, relating to insurance, so as to require health insurers to implement a
32 standardized credentialing application; to provide for health insurers to approve credentialing
33 applications within a certain time frame; to provide for the Department of Insurance and the
34 Department of Community Health to coordinate with stakeholders to establish a standardized
35 credentialing application; to provide for health insurers to utilize such application; to provide
36 for rules and regulations; to amend Title 37 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
37 relating to mental health, so as to add a member to the Behavioral Health Coordinating
38 Council; to establish a parity compliance review panel; to provide for its composition and
39 duties; to require health care providers to report suspected mental health parity violations to
40 the panel; to provide for evaluation of complaints; to provide for recommendations for
41 punitive actions; to provide for definitions; to provide for related matters; to provide an
42 effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

43 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

70 30 days of attaining such credentials. A prescriber who violates this subsection shall be
71 held administratively accountable to the state regulatory board governing such prescriber
72 for such violation.

73 ~~(2) Any state regulatory board governing prescribers shall have the discretion to rescind~~
74 ~~any consent orders or other disciplinary actions that were entered into or imposed prior~~
75 ~~to April 26, 2019, for a violation of paragraph (1) of this subsection after review based~~
76 ~~on, but not limited to, the following factors: subsequent compliance with paragraph (1)~~
77 ~~of this subsection; compliance with the terms of the consent order or other disciplinary~~
78 ~~action; and whether such prescriber has had previous infractions of other laws or~~
79 ~~regulations relating to his or her licensure. The authority granted under this paragraph~~
80 ~~shall expire on December 31, 2019.~~

81 ~~(3)(2) For~~ On and after April 26, 2019, for purposes of this subsection, the term
82 'administratively accountable' shall mean a warning or the imposition of a fine, but any
83 such fine shall not be considered a disciplinary action against the licensee.

84 ~~(d) Between January 1, 2018, and May 31, 2018, the department shall randomly test the~~
85 ~~PDMP to determine if it is accessible and operational 99.5 percent of the time. If the~~
86 ~~department determines that the PDMP meets such standard, then between June 1, 2018, and~~
87 ~~June 20, 2018, the department shall certify in writing to each board that governs prescribers~~
88 ~~that it is operational. Each board that governs prescribers shall publish such information~~
89 ~~on its website."~~

90 SECTION 1-2.

91 Said title is further amended in said part by revising Code Section 16-13-61, relating to
92 Electronic Database Review Advisory Committee, members, terms, officers, procedure, and
93 compensation, as follows:

94 "16-13-61.

95 ~~(a) There is established an Electronic Database Review Advisory Committee for the~~
96 ~~purposes of consulting with and advising the department on matters related to the~~
97 ~~establishment, maintenance, and operation of how prescriptions are electronically reviewed~~
98 ~~pursuant to this part. This shall include, but shall not be limited to, data collection,~~
99 ~~regulation of access to data, evaluation of data to identify benefits and outcomes of the~~
100 ~~reviews, communication to prescribers and dispensers as to the intent of the reviews and~~
101 ~~how to use the PDMP, and security of data collected.~~

102 ~~(b) The advisory committee shall consist of 12 members as follows:~~

103 ~~(1) A representative from the agency;~~

104 ~~(2) A representative from the Georgia Composite Medical Board;~~

105 ~~(3) A representative from the Georgia Board of Dentistry;~~

106 ~~(4) A representative with expertise in personal privacy matters, appointed by the~~
107 ~~president of the State Bar of Georgia;~~

108 ~~(5) A representative from a specialty profession that deals in addictive medicine,~~
109 ~~appointed by the Georgia Composite Medical Board;~~

110 ~~(6) A pain management specialist, appointed by the Georgia Composite Medical Board;~~

111 ~~(7) An oncologist, appointed by the Georgia Composite Medical Board;~~

112 ~~(8) A representative from a hospice or hospice organization, appointed by the Georgia~~
113 ~~Composite Medical Board;~~

114 ~~(9) A representative from the State Board of Optometry;~~

115 ~~(10) The consumer member appointed by the Governor to the State Board of Pharmacy~~
116 ~~pursuant to subsection (b) of Code Section 26-4-21;~~

117 ~~(11) A pharmacist from the State Board of Pharmacy; and~~

118 ~~(12) A representative from the Department of Public Health.~~

119 ~~(c) Each member of the advisory committee shall serve a three-year term or until the~~
120 ~~appointment and qualification of such member's successor.~~

121 ~~(d) The advisory committee shall elect a chairperson and vice chairperson from among its~~
 122 ~~membership to serve a term of one year. The vice chairperson shall serve as the~~
 123 ~~chairperson at times when the chairperson is absent.~~

124 ~~(e) The advisory committee shall meet at the call of the chairperson or upon request by at~~
 125 ~~least three of the members and shall meet at least one time per year. Five members of the~~
 126 ~~committee shall constitute a quorum.~~

127 ~~(f) The members shall receive no compensation or reimbursement of expenses from the~~
 128 ~~state for their services as members of the advisory committee. Reserved.~~

129 SECTION 1-3.

130 Said title is further amended in said part by revising paragraph (2) of subsection (a) of Code
 131 Section 16-13-63, relating to liability, review of PDMP data when filing certain
 132 prescriptions, and cause of action for civil damages, as follows:

133 "(2)(A) On and after July 1, 2018, when a prescriber is prescribing a controlled
 134 substance listed in paragraph (1) or (2) of Code Section 16-13-26 or benzodiazepines,
 135 he or she shall seek and review information from the PDMP the first time he or she
 136 issues such prescription to a patient and thereafter at least once every 90 days, unless
 137 the:

138 (i) Prescription is for no more than a three-day supply of such substance and no
 139 more than 26 pills;

140 (ii) Patient is in a hospital or healthcare facility, including, but not limited to, a
 141 nursing home, an intermediate care home, a personal care home, or a hospice
 142 program, which provides patient care and prescriptions to be administered and used
 143 by a patient on the premises of the facility;

144 (iii) Patient has had outpatient surgery at a hospital or ambulatory surgical center
 145 and the prescription is for no more than a ten-day supply of such substance and no
 146 more than 40 pills;

147 (iv) Patient is terminally ill or under the supervised care of an outpatient hospice
 148 program; or

149 (v) Patient is receiving treatment for cancer.

150 ~~(B) This paragraph shall not become effective unless the department's certification~~
 151 ~~required by subsection (d) of Code Section 16-13-57 has been issued.~~

152 ~~(C)~~(B) A prescriber who violates this paragraph shall be held administratively
 153 accountable to the state regulatory board governing such prescriber but shall not be held
 154 civilly liable for damages to any person in any civil or administrative action or
 155 criminally responsible for injury, death, or loss to person or property on the basis that
 156 such prescriber did or did not seek or obtain information from such ~~data base~~ database
 157 when prescribing such substance."

158 **SECTION 1-4.**

159 Said title is further amended in Article 3 of said chapter, relating to dangerous drugs, by
 160 revising paragraph (12.1) of subsection (c) of Code Section 16-13-71, relating to dangerous
 161 drug, as follows:

162 "(12.1) Ivermectin —

163 (A) When used with a strength of 0.5 percent or less in a topical lotion; or

164 (B) When dispensed by a pharmacist to a patient 18 years of age or older, and
 165 following a good-faith patient assessment that includes screening for contraindications,
 166 current medications, and potential drug interactions, as a product in finished dosage
 167 formulation in its original container that has been approved by and labeled in
 168 compliance with the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Such product
 169 shall be classified as a behind-the-counter medication and shall not be available for
 170 self-service. The State Board of Pharmacy shall adopt rules governing the dispensing
 171 of ivermectin under this subparagraph;"

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SECTION 1-5.

Title 19 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to domestic relations, is amended in Article 2 of Chapter 3, relating to license and ceremony, by revising Code Section 19-3-35.1, relating to AIDS brochures, listing of HIV test sites, and acknowledgment of receipt, as follows:

"19-3-35.1.

~~(a) Any term used in this Code section and defined in Code Section 31-22-9.1 shall have the meaning provided for such term in Code Section 31-22-9.1.~~

~~(b) The Department of Public Health shall prepare a brochure describing AIDS, HIV, and the dangers, populations at risk, risk behaviors, and prevention measures relating thereto. That department shall also prepare a listing of sites at which confidential and anonymous HIV tests are provided without charge. That department shall further prepare a form for acknowledging that the brochures and listings have been received, as required by subsection (c) of this Code section. The brochures, listings, and forms prepared by the Department of Public Health (formerly known as the Department of Human Resources for these purposes) under this subsection shall be prepared and furnished to the office of each judge of the probate court no later than October 1, 1988.~~

~~(c) On and after October 1, 1988, each person who makes application for a marriage license shall receive from the office of the probate judge at the time of the application the AIDS brochure and listing of HIV test sites prepared and furnished pursuant to subsection (b) of this Code section. On and after October 1, 1988, no marriage license shall be issued unless both the proposed husband and the proposed wife sign a form acknowledging that both have received the brochure and listing. Reserved.~~

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SECTION 1-6.

Said title is further amended in said article by revising Code Section 19-3-40, relating to blood test for sickle cell disease and information to be provided, as follows:

198 "19-3-40.

199 ~~(a) As used in this Code section, the term 'blood test for sickle cell disease' means a blood~~
 200 ~~test for sickle cell anemia, sickle cell trait, and other detectable abnormal hemoglobin.~~

201 ~~(b) The Department of Public Health shall prepare information for public dissemination~~
 202 ~~on the department's website describing the importance of obtaining a blood test for sickle~~
 203 ~~cell disease and explaining the causes and effects of such disease. Such information shall~~
 204 ~~recommend that each applicant applying for a marriage license obtain a blood test for~~
 205 ~~sickle cell disease prior to obtaining a marriage license. Such information may also be~~
 206 ~~provided as a brochure or other document. The department shall make such information~~
 207 ~~available in electronic format to the probate courts of this state which shall disseminate~~
 208 ~~such information to all persons applying for marriage licenses. Reserved."~~

209 **SECTION 1-7.**

210 Said title is further amended in said article by revising Code Section 19-3-41, relating to
 211 Department of Public Health marriage manual, distribution, and rules and regulations, as
 212 follows:

213 "19-3-41.

214 ~~(a) The Department of Public Health shall prepare a marriage manual for distribution by~~
 215 ~~the judge of the probate court or his clerk to all applicants for a marriage license. The~~
 216 ~~manual shall include, but shall not be limited to, material on family planning.~~

217 ~~(b) The manual provided for in subsection (a) of this Code section shall be issued by the~~
 218 ~~judge of the probate court or his clerk to applicants for a marriage license at the same time~~
 219 ~~the marriage license is issued.~~

220 ~~(c) The Department of Public Health shall promulgate rules and regulations to implement~~
 221 ~~this Code section.~~

222 ~~(d) In order to be nonsectarian, the manual will include resource referral information for~~
 223 ~~those who might have questions regarding religious beliefs in the areas covered by the~~
 224 ~~marriage manual. Reserved.~~"

225 **SECTION 1-8.**

226 Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to health, is amended in
 227 Chapter 1, relating to general provisions, by revising subsection (e) of Code
 228 Section 31-1-3.2, relating to hearing screenings for newborns, as follows:

229 "(e) It is the intent of the General Assembly that, ~~by July 1, 2002,~~ newborn hearing
 230 screening be conducted on no fewer than 95 percent of all newborn infants born in
 231 hospitals in this state, using procedures established by rule ~~and~~ or regulation of the ~~Board~~
 232 ~~of Public Health after review of any recommendations of the advisory committee on~~
 233 ~~hearing in newborn infants, created in former subsection (d) of this Code section. Toward~~
 234 ~~that end, on and after July 1, 2001, every~~ department. Every licensed or certified hospital
 235 and physician shall educate the parents of newborn infants born in such hospitals of the
 236 importance of screening the hearing of newborn infants and follow-up care. Education
 237 shall not be considered a substitute for the hearing screening described in this subsection.
 238 Every licensed or permitted hospital shall report annually to the Department of Public
 239 Health concerning the following number of newborn infants:

- 240 (1) Born ~~The number of newborn infants born in the hospital;~~
 241 (2) Screened ~~The number of newborn infants screened;~~
 242 (3) Who ~~The number of newborn infants who passed the screening, if administered; and~~
 243 (4) Who ~~The number of newborn infants who did not pass the screening, if~~
 244 ~~administered."~~

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SECTION 1-9.

Said title is further amended in said chapter by repealing subsections (f) and (g) of Code Section 31-1-15, relating to use of auto-injectable epinephrine by authorized entities.

SECTION 1-10.

Said title is further amended in Article 1 of Chapter 2A, relating to Department of Public Health, by revising Code Section 31-2A-19, relating to pilot program for home visitation during pregnancy and early childhood, reporting, and funding requirement, as follows:

"31-2A-19.

~~(a) The Department of Public Health shall conduct a pilot program to provide home visiting in at-risk and underserved rural communities during pregnancy and early childhood to improve birth outcomes, reduce preterm deliveries, and decrease infant and maternal mortality.~~

~~(b) No later than December 31, 2024, the department shall submit a detailed written report on the implementation and effectiveness of the pilot program to the Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President of the Senate, and the chairpersons of the House Committee on Public Health and the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. Such report shall also include recommendations as to expansion of the pilot program state wide.~~

~~(c) This Code section shall be contingent upon appropriations made by the General Assembly specifically for the department for such purposes. Reserved."~~

SECTION 1-11.

Said title is further amended in Article 8 of Chapter 8, relating to "health share" volunteers in medicine, by revising Code Section 31-8-198, relating to annual report, as follows:

268 "31-8-198.
 269 Annually, the department shall report to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the
 270 House of Representatives, the minority leaders of each house, and chairpersons of the
 271 House Public and Community Health and Human Services Committee and the Senate
 272 Health and Human Services Committee, summarizing the ~~efficacy of access and treatment~~
 273 ~~outcomes~~ access points of service and utilization data with respect to providing ~~health care~~
 274 healthcare services for low-income persons pursuant to this article."

275 **SECTION 1-12.**

276 Said title is further amended in Article 6 of Chapter 11, relating to system of certified stoke
 277 centers, by revising subsection (d) of Code Section 31-11-114, relating to grants and report,
 278 as follows:

279 "(d) Subject to appropriations, the ~~The~~ department shall annually prepare and submit to the
 280 Governor, the ~~President of the Senate~~ Lieutenant Governor, the Speaker of the House of
 281 Representatives, and the chairpersons of the House Committee on Public and Community
 282 ~~Health and Human Services~~ and the Senate Health and Human Services Committee for
 283 distribution to its committee members a report indicating the total number of hospitals that
 284 have applied for grants pursuant to this Code section, the number of applicants that have
 285 been determined by the department to be eligible for such grants, the total number of grants
 286 to be awarded, the name and address of each grantee hospital, the amount of the award to
 287 each grantee, and the amount of each award to be disbursed to the grantee."

288 **SECTION 1-13.**

289 Said title is further amended in Article 7 of Chapter 11, relating to emergency cardiac care
 290 centers, by revising subsection (d) of Code Section 31-11-135, relating to grants to hospitals
 291 and reporting, as follows:

292 "(d) Subject to appropriations, the ~~The~~ office shall annually prepare and submit to the
293 Office of Health Strategy and Coordination a report indicating the total number of hospitals
294 that have applied for grants pursuant to this Code section, the number of applicants that
295 have been determined by the office to be eligible for such grants, the total number of grants
296 to be awarded, the name and address of each grantee, and the amount of the award to each
297 grantee."

298 **SECTION 1-14.**

299 Said title is further amended in Chapter 12, relating to control of hazardous conditions,
300 preventable diseases, and metabolic disorders, by revising subsection (a.1) of Code Section
301 31-12-2, relating to required reporting of certain health conditions that may pose substantial
302 risk and required reporting of neonatal abstinence syndrome, as follows:

303 "(a.1)(1) As used in this subsection, the term 'neonatal abstinence syndrome' means a
304 group of physical problems that occur in a newborn infant who was exposed to addictive
305 illegal or prescription drugs while in the mother's womb.

306 (2) The department shall require notice and reporting of incidents of neonatal abstinence
307 syndrome. A ~~health care~~ healthcare provider, coroner, or medical examiner, or any other
308 person or entity the department determines has knowledge of diagnoses or health
309 outcomes related, directly or indirectly, to neonatal abstinence syndrome shall report
310 incidents of neonatal abstinence syndrome to the department. ~~The department shall~~
311 ~~provide an annual report to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of~~
312 ~~Representatives, the chairperson of the House Committee on Health and Human Services,~~
313 ~~and the chairperson of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. Such annual~~
314 ~~report shall include any department findings and recommendations on how to reduce the~~
315 ~~number of infants born with neonatal abstinence syndrome."~~

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SECTION 1-15.

Said title is further amended in Chapter 15, relating to care and treatment of cancer patients, by revising Code Section 31-15-3, relating to Cancer Advisory Committee, as follows:

~~"31-15-3.~~

~~(a) The Governor shall appoint a Cancer Advisory Committee to advise the department in the administration of this chapter. The committee shall establish priorities and recommend relative budgets for the various purposes of this chapter as described below.~~

~~(b) The Cancer Advisory Committee shall consist of 18 members appointed by the Governor as follows:~~

~~(1) Four members representing medical schools as follows: The term of office of those two members appointed from a list of names submitted to the Governor by the deans of the medical schools located within this state, which members are serving as such on June 30, 1985, shall expire on that date and upon the appointment and qualification of the first two members appointed by the Governor in 1985 pursuant to this paragraph. On and after July 1, 1985, four membership positions on the committee shall represent the four medical schools, whether public or private, located within this state. The deans of those schools shall each submit to the Governor a list of three names and the Governor shall appoint one member from each of those four lists;~~

~~(2) Two members shall be appointed by the Governor from a list of six names submitted to him by the chief executive officers of the hospitals or cancer clinics located within Georgia which are equipped to provide modern treatment for patients suffering from cancer;~~

~~(3) Two members shall be appointed by the Governor from a list of six names submitted to him by the Medical Association of Georgia;~~

~~(4) Two members shall be appointed by the Governor from a list of six names submitted to him by the American Cancer Society, Georgia Division;~~

- 342 ~~(5) The term of office of the two members appointed from the list of names submitted~~
343 ~~to the Governor by the Georgia Cancer Management Network, Inc., shall expire upon~~
344 ~~July 1, 1985, and such two membership positions shall thereafter be abolished;~~
345 ~~(6) One member shall be appointed by the Governor from a list of three names submitted~~
346 ~~to him by the Georgia Claims Association and the Georgia Chapter of the Health~~
347 ~~Insurance Association of America;~~
348 ~~(7) One member shall be appointed by the Governor from a list of three names submitted~~
349 ~~to him by the director of the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency;~~
350 ~~(8) Two members shall be selected by the Governor from the general public;~~
351 ~~(9) One member shall be appointed by the Governor from a list of three names submitted~~
352 ~~to him by the Georgia Nurses Association;~~
353 ~~(10) One member shall be appointed by the Governor from a list of three names~~
354 ~~submitted to him by the Georgia Association of Pathologists;~~
355 ~~(11) One member shall be appointed by the Governor from a list of three names~~
356 ~~submitted to him by the Georgia State Medical Association; and~~
357 ~~(12) One member shall be appointed by the Governor from a list of three names~~
358 ~~submitted to him by the Georgia Pharmaceutical Association.~~
- 359 ~~(c) The persons whose names are submitted to the Governor by the medical colleges, the~~
360 ~~hospitals, the Medical Association of Georgia, the Georgia State Medical Association, and~~
361 ~~the Georgia Association of Pathologists shall all be physicians licensed to practice~~
362 ~~medicine under the laws of Georgia, and the persons whose names are submitted by the~~
363 ~~Medical Association of Georgia and the Georgia State Medical Association shall all be~~
364 ~~actively engaged in the practice of medicine. The persons whose names are submitted to~~
365 ~~the Governor by the Georgia Nurses Association shall all be registered professional nurses~~
366 ~~licensed to practice nursing under the laws of Georgia. All persons whose names are~~
367 ~~submitted to the Governor by the Georgia Pharmaceutical Association shall be registered~~
368 ~~pharmacists licensed to practice pharmacy under the laws of Georgia.~~

369 ~~(d) The Governor shall appoint the initial members for staggered terms as follows: three~~
 370 ~~shall be appointed for terms to expire on December 31, 1977; three shall be appointed for~~
 371 ~~terms to expire on December 31, 1978; three shall be appointed for terms to expire on~~
 372 ~~December 31, 1979; and six shall be appointed for terms to expire on December 31, 1980.~~
 373 ~~Thereafter, their successors shall be appointed for terms of four years, and until their~~
 374 ~~successors are appointed and qualified, to begin on the expiration of the respective terms~~
 375 ~~of office. In the event of a vacancy for any reason, the Governor shall fill said vacancy for~~
 376 ~~the unexpired term in the same manner that other appointments are made. Those initial~~
 377 ~~members added to the committee in 1985 shall be appointed for initial terms beginning July~~
 378 ~~1, 1985, and expiring December 31, 1989, and upon the appointment and qualification of~~
 379 ~~their respective successors. Thereafter, their successors shall be appointed for terms of four~~
 380 ~~years and until their respective successors are appointed and qualified, such terms to begin~~
 381 ~~on the expiration of the respective terms of office.~~
 382 ~~(e) The Cancer Advisory Committee shall meet as often as the commissioner deems~~
 383 ~~necessary but not less than twice each year. Reserved.~~

384 **SECTION 1-16.**

385 Said title is further amended in said chapter by revising Code Section 31-15-4, relating to
 386 cancer control officer, as follows:

387 "31-15-4.

388 ~~The commissioner shall appoint a cancer control officer. The cancer control officer shall~~
 389 ~~be a physician licensed to practice medicine under Chapter 34 of Title 43 and shall be~~
 390 ~~knowledgeable in the field of medicine covered by this chapter. He or she shall administer~~
 391 ~~the cancer program for the Department of Public Health in compliance with this chapter.~~
 392 ~~He or she shall be provided an office with clerical and administrative assistance to carry~~
 393 ~~out this program. Reserved.~~

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SECTION 1-17.

Said title is further amended in said chapter by revising Code Section 31-15-5, relating to duties of commissioner, as follows:

"31-15-5.

The commissioner, ~~with the advice of the Cancer Advisory Committee,~~ shall:

- (1) Develop standards for determining eligibility of patients for care and treatment under this program, ~~set standards for the equipping and staffing of cancer clinics located strategically throughout the state and so placed that patients requiring treatment will not have to travel more than 75 miles to secure such treatment. When the clinics meet such standards, they shall be certified by the department. Patients treated at uncertified cancer clinics shall not be eligible for state aid for reimbursement;~~
- (2) In the event that federal grant programs become available for patient care, the commissioner may allocate state matching funds in whatever department of state government they may be administered so as to maximize the total funds available and to obtain funding needed by the specific patient population which is declared eligible. ~~These programs include but are not restricted to Medicaid, crippled children's services, and vocational rehabilitation;~~
- (3) Extend financial aid to persons suffering from cancer to enable them to obtain the medical, nursing, pharmaceutical, and technical services necessary in caring for such disease. Criteria and procedures for financial aid will be developed by the ~~Division of Physical Health~~ in accordance with the principle that pauperization of a functional family unit will subvert the rehabilitative purposes of this program and will be more costly to the state in the long run department;
- (4) Assist in the development and expansion, by grant or by contract, of programs for the care and treatment of persons suffering from cancer so that the most efficient and effective treatment may be offered to the patients certified as eligible;
- (5) Assist in the development of programs for the prevention of cancer;

- 421 (6) Assist in the development and execution of programs for the early detection of
 422 cancer, such as breast self-examination for breast cancer and the Papanicolaou test for
 423 cancer of the cervix;
- 424 (7) Institute and support, directly or through health organizations such as the American
 425 Cancer Society and the Georgia ~~Cancer Management Network~~ Center for Oncology
 426 Research and Education, educational programs for physicians, ~~providers of health care~~
 427 healthcare providers, and the public concerning cancer, including the dissemination of
 428 information regarding prevention, early detection, and treatment; and
- 429 (8) Support a state-wide registry of all patients ~~treated in certified cancer clinics~~
 430 diagnosed with cancer in order to evaluate the nature and extent of the incidence of
 431 cancer and the effectiveness of treatment."

432 **SECTION 1-18.**

433 Said title is further amended by repealing and reserving Chapter 42, the "Osteoporosis
 434 Prevention and Treatment Education Act."

435 **SECTION 1-19.**

436 Said title is further amended in Chapter 46, relating to Newborn Umbilical Cord Blood Bank,
 437 by revising Code Section 31-46-3, relating to Newborn Umbilical Cord Blood Bank for
 438 postnatal tissue and fluid, creation, and donations and information concerning donations, as
 439 follows:

440 "31-46-3.

441 (a) ~~Public~~ Not later than June 30, 2008, the Georgia Commission for Saving the Cure, as
 442 ~~created in Code Section 31-46-4, shall establish a network of postnatal tissue and fluid~~
 443 ~~banks in partnership with one or more public or private colleges or universities, public or~~
 444 ~~private hospitals, nonprofit organizations, or private firms in this state~~ may establish a
 445 network of postnatal tissue and fluid banks for the purpose of collecting and storing

446 postnatal tissue and fluid. The bank network, which shall be known as the Newborn
447 Umbilical Cord Blood Bank, shall make such tissue and fluid available for medical
448 research and treatment in accordance with this chapter.

449 ~~(b) The Georgia Commission for Saving the Cure shall develop a program to educate~~
450 ~~pregnant patients with respect to the banking of postnatal tissue and fluid. The program~~
451 ~~shall include:~~

- 452 ~~(1) Notice of the existence of the Newborn Umbilical Cord Blood Bank;~~
- 453 ~~(2) An explanation of the difference between public and private banking programs;~~
- 454 ~~(3) The medical process involved in the collection and storage of postnatal tissue and~~
455 ~~fluid;~~
- 456 ~~(4) The current and potential future medical uses of stored postnatal tissue and fluid;~~
- 457 ~~(5) The benefits and risks involved in the banking of postnatal tissue and fluid; and~~
- 458 ~~(6) The availability and cost of storing postnatal tissue and fluid in public and private~~
459 ~~umbilical cord blood banks.~~

460 ~~(c)~~(b) Beginning June 30, 2009, all physicians and hospitals in this state shall inform
461 pregnant patients of the full range of options for donation of postnatal tissue and fluids no
462 later than 30 days from the commencement of the patient's third trimester of pregnancy or
463 at the first consultation between the attending physician or the hospital, whichever is later;
464 provided, however, that this subsection shall not be construed to require the participation
465 of any physician who objects to the transfusion or transplantation of blood on the basis of
466 bona fide religious beliefs.

467 ~~(d)~~(c) Nothing in this Code section shall be construed to prohibit a person from donating
468 postnatal tissue or fluid to a private blood and tissue bank or storing postnatal tissue or
469 fluid with a private blood and tissue bank.

470 ~~(e)~~(d) Any college or university, hospital, nonprofit organization, or private firm
471 participating in the Newborn Umbilical Cord Blood Bank shall have or be subject to an
472 institutional review board which shall be available on an ongoing basis to review the

473 research procedures and conduct of any person desiring to conduct research with postnatal
474 tissue and fluid from the bank. The institutional review board shall establish procedures
475 to protect and ensure the privacy rights of postnatal tissue and fluid donors consistent with
476 applicable federal guidelines."

477 **SECTION 1-20.**

478 Said title is further amended in said chapter by revising Code Section 31-46-4, relating to
479 Georgia Commission for Saving the Cure, creation, membership, appointment, terms of
480 office, and duties, as follows:

481 "31-46-4.

482 ~~(a) There is created the Georgia Commission for Saving the Cure which shall consist of~~
483 ~~15 members appointed as provided in this Code section. The commission shall be assigned~~
484 ~~to the Department of Public Health for administrative purposes only, as prescribed in Code~~
485 ~~Section 50-4-3.~~

486 ~~(b) Seven members shall be appointed by the Governor. The Governor shall appoint four~~
487 ~~members to serve initial terms of three years and three members to serve initial terms of~~
488 ~~two years. Thereafter, successors to such initial appointees shall serve terms of three years.~~
489 ~~The Governor shall designate one of the persons so appointed to be the chairperson of the~~
490 ~~commission. If the chief executive officer of the Georgia Research Alliance is not~~
491 ~~appointed by the Governor or any other appointing authority to serve on the commission,~~
492 ~~he or she shall serve as an advisory member.~~

493 ~~(c) Four members shall be appointed by the Lieutenant Governor or, if the Lieutenant~~
494 ~~Governor belongs to a political party other than the political party to which a majority of~~
495 ~~the members of the Senate belong, by the Senate Committee on Assignments. Of these~~
496 ~~four members, there shall be at least one of each of the following: a physician licensed to~~
497 ~~practice medicine in this state; a recognized medical ethicist with an accredited degree in~~
498 ~~medicine, medical ethics, or theology; a medical researcher in permitted stem cell research;~~

499 ~~and an attorney with experience in health policy law. The Lieutenant Governor or Senate~~
500 ~~Committee on Assignments shall appoint two members to serve initial terms of three years~~
501 ~~and two members to serve initial terms of two years. Thereafter, successors to such initial~~
502 ~~appointees shall serve terms of three years.~~

503 ~~(d) Four members shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Of~~
504 ~~these four members, there shall be at least one of each of the following: a physician~~
505 ~~licensed to practice medicine in this state; a recognized medical ethicist with an accredited~~
506 ~~degree in medicine, medical ethics, or theology; a medical researcher in permitted stem cell~~
507 ~~research; and an attorney with experience in health policy law. The Speaker of the House~~
508 ~~of Representatives shall appoint two members to serve initial terms of three years and two~~
509 ~~members to serve initial terms of two years. Thereafter, successors to such initial~~
510 ~~appointees shall serve terms of three years.~~

511 ~~(e) Members of the commission shall be eligible to succeed themselves. The initial terms~~
512 ~~of office shall begin on July 1, 2007. Appointments shall be made by the respective~~
513 ~~appointing authorities no later than June 15, 2007. Thereafter, appointments of successors~~
514 ~~shall be made by the respective appointing authority no later than June 1 of the year in~~
515 ~~which the member's term of office expires. Vacancies shall be filled for the unexpired term~~
516 ~~by the respective appointing authority.~~

517 ~~(f) The commission shall meet at least four times per year at the call of the chairperson or~~
518 ~~upon the request of at least seven of its members.~~

519 ~~(g) The commission shall have the following duties and responsibilities:~~

- 520 ~~(1) To investigate the implementation of this chapter and to recommend any~~
521 ~~improvements to the General Assembly;~~
522 ~~(2) To make available to the public the records of all meetings of the commission and~~
523 ~~of all business transacted by the commission;~~

- 524 ~~(3) To oversee the operations of the Newborn Umbilical Cord Blood Bank established~~
525 ~~in Code Section 31-46-3, including approving all fees established to cover administration,~~
526 ~~collection, and storage costs;~~
- 527 ~~(4) To undertake the Saving the Cure initiative by promoting awareness of the Newborn~~
528 ~~Umbilical Cord Blood Bank and encouraging donation of postnatal tissue and fluid to the~~
529 ~~bank;~~
- 530 ~~(5) To ensure the privacy of persons who donate postnatal tissue and fluid to the~~
531 ~~Newborn Umbilical Cord Blood Bank pursuant to subsection (a) of Code Section 31-46-3~~
532 ~~consistent with applicable federal guidelines;~~
- 533 ~~(6) To develop a plan for making postnatal tissue and fluid collected under the Saving~~
534 ~~the Cure initiative available for medical research and treatment and to ensure compliance~~
535 ~~with all relevant national practice and quality standards relating to such use;~~
- 536 ~~(7) To develop a plan for private storage of postnatal tissue and fluid for medical~~
537 ~~treatment or to make potential donors aware of private storage options for said tissue and~~
538 ~~fluid as deemed in the public interest;~~
- 539 ~~(8) To participate in the National Cord Blood Program and to register postnatal tissue~~
540 ~~and fluid collected with registries operating in connection with the program;~~
- 541 ~~(9) To make grants and enter into agreements to support permitted stem cell research~~
542 ~~with immediate and clinical medical applications;~~
- 543 ~~(10) To employ such staff and to enter into such contracts as may be necessary to fulfill~~
544 ~~its duties and responsibilities under this chapter subject to funding by the General~~
545 ~~Assembly; and~~
- 546 ~~(11) To report annually to the General Assembly in December of each year concerning~~
547 ~~the activities of the commission with recommendations for any legislative changes or~~
548 ~~funding necessary or desirable to fulfill the goals of this chapter.~~

549 ~~(h) The commission shall provide for protection from disclosure of the identity of persons~~
 550 ~~making donations to the Newborn Umbilical Cord Blood Bank pursuant to subsection (a)~~
 551 ~~of Code Section 31-46-3.~~

552 ~~(i) The commission may request additional funding from any additional source including,~~
 553 ~~but not limited to, federal and private grants.~~

554 ~~(j) The commission may establish a separate not for profit organization or foundation for~~
 555 ~~the purposes of supporting the Newborn Umbilical Cord Blood Bank established pursuant~~
 556 ~~to Code Section 31-46-3. Reserved.~~

557 **SECTION 1-21.**

558 Said title is further amended by repealing and reserving Chapter 47, relating to Arthritis
 559 Prevention and Control Program.

560 **SECTION 1-22.**

561 Title 48 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to revenue and taxation, is
 562 amended in Article 3 of Chapter 7, relating to returns and furnishing of information, by
 563 revising Code Section 48-7-63, relating to optional taxpayer contributions to permitted stem
 564 cell research through income tax payment and refund process, as follows:

565 "48-7-63.

566 ~~(a) Each Georgia income tax return form for taxable years beginning on or after January~~
 567 ~~1, 2007, shall contain appropriate language, to be determined by the commissioner,~~
 568 ~~offering the taxpayer the opportunity to contribute to permitted stem cell research, as~~
 569 ~~defined in Code Section 31-46-2, through the Georgia Commission for Saving the Cure by~~
 570 ~~donating either all or any part of any tax refund due, by authorizing a reduction in the~~
 571 ~~refund check otherwise payable, or by contributing any amount over and above any amount~~
 572 ~~of tax owed by adding that amount to the taxpayer's payment. The instructions~~
 573 ~~accompanying the income tax return form shall contain a description of the purposes for~~

574 ~~which the commission was established and the intended use of moneys received from the~~
 575 ~~contributions. Each taxpayer required to file a state income tax return who desires to~~
 576 ~~contribute to the commission may designate such contribution as provided in this Code~~
 577 ~~section on the appropriate income tax return form.~~

578 ~~(b) The Department of Revenue shall determine annually the total amount so contributed~~
 579 ~~and shall transmit such amount to the Georgia Commission for Saving the Cure.~~
 580 Reserved."

581 **SECTION 1-23.**

582 Title 49 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to social services, is amended
 583 in Chapter 1, relating to general provisions, by revising Code Section 49-1-7, relating to
 584 home delivered meals, transportation, services for the elderly, and preschool children with
 585 special needs fund, as follows:

586 "49-1-7.

587 (a) The General Assembly finds that it is in the best interest of the state to provide for
 588 programs for home delivered meals, transportation services for the elderly, and preschool
 589 children with special needs, including but not limited to disabled children, troubled
 590 children, school readiness programs, and other similar needs for the benefit of the citizens
 591 of Georgia. In addition to and as a supplement to traditional financing mechanisms for
 592 such programs, it is the policy of this state to enable and encourage citizens voluntarily to
 593 support such programs.

594 (b) To support programs for home delivered meals, transportation services for the elderly,
 595 and preschool children with special needs which programs have been established or
 596 approved by the department or the Department of ~~Community~~ Public Health, the
 597 department may, without limitation, promote and solicit voluntary contributions through
 598 the income tax return contribution mechanism established in subsection (f) of this Code
 599 section, through offers to match contributions by any person with moneys appropriated or

600 contributed to the department or the Department of ~~Community~~ Public Health for such
601 programs, or through any fund raising or other promotional techniques deemed appropriate
602 by the department or the Department of ~~Community~~ Public Health.

603 (c) There is established a special fund to be known as the 'Home Delivered Meals,
604 Transportation Services for the Elderly, and Preschool Children with Special Needs Fund.'
605 This fund shall consist of all moneys contributed under subsection (b) of this Code section,
606 all moneys transferred to the department under subsection (f) of this Code section, and any
607 other moneys contributed to this fund or to the home delivered meals, transportation
608 services for the elderly, or preschool children with special needs programs of the
609 department or the Department of ~~Community~~ Public Health and all interest thereon. All
610 balances in the fund shall be deposited in an interest-bearing account identifying the fund
611 and shall be carried forward each year so that no part thereof may be deposited in the
612 general treasury. The fund shall be administered and the moneys held in the fund shall be
613 expended by the department through the Division of Aging Services in furtherance of home
614 delivered meals and transportation services to the elderly programs and by the Department
615 of ~~Community~~ Public Health in furtherance of preschool children with special needs
616 programs.

617 (d) Following the transmittal of contributions to the department for deposit in the fund
618 pursuant to subsection (f) of this Code section, the expenditure of moneys in the fund shall
619 be allocated as follows:

620 (1) Fifty percent of the contributions to the fund shall be used for home delivered meals
621 and transportation services to the elderly programs; and

622 (2) Fifty percent of the contributions to the fund shall be transferred to the Department
623 of ~~Community~~ Public Health to be used for preschool children with special needs
624 programs.

625 (e) Contributions to the fund shall be deemed supplemental to and shall in no way supplant
626 funding that would otherwise be appropriated for these purposes. Contributions shall only

627 be used for benefits and services and shall not be used for personnel or administrative
628 positions. The department and the Department of ~~Community~~ Public Health shall each
629 prepare, by February 1 of each year, an accounting of the funds received and expended
630 from the fund and a review and evaluation of all expended moneys of the fund. The reports
631 shall be made available to the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the Speaker of the
632 House of Representatives, to the members of the Board of Human Services, and, upon
633 request, to members of the public.

634 (f)(1) Unless an earlier date is deemed feasible and established by the Governor, each
635 Georgia income tax return form for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 1993,
636 shall contain appropriate language, to be determined by the state revenue commissioner,
637 offering the taxpayer the opportunity to contribute to the Home Delivered Meals,
638 Transportation Services for the Elderly, and Preschool Children with Special Needs Fund
639 established in subsection (c) of this Code section by either donating all or any part of any
640 tax refund due, by authorizing a reduction in the refund check otherwise payable, or by
641 contributing any amount over and above any amount of tax owed by adding that amount
642 to the taxpayer's payment. The instructions accompanying the income tax return form
643 shall contain a description of the purposes for which this fund was established and the
644 intended use of moneys received from the contributions. Each taxpayer required to file
645 a state income tax return who desires to contribute to such fund may designate such
646 contribution as provided in this Code section on the appropriate income tax return form.

647 (2) The Department of Revenue shall determine annually the total amount so contributed,
648 shall withhold therefrom a reasonable amount for administering this voluntary
649 contribution program, and shall transmit the balance to the department for deposit in the
650 fund established in subsection (c) of this Code section; provided, however, that the
651 amount retained for administrative costs, including implementation costs, shall not
652 exceed \$50,000.00 per year. If, in any tax year, the administrative costs of the
653 Department of Revenue for collecting contributions pursuant to this Code section exceed

654 the sum of such contributions, the administrative costs which the Department of Revenue
655 is authorized to withhold from such contributions shall not exceed the sum of such
656 contributions."

657 **PART II**
658 **SECTION 2-1.**

659 Title 33 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to insurance, is amended in
660 Article 1 of Chapter 24, relating to general provisions, by revising Code Section 33-24-37,
661 which is reserved, as follows:

662 "33-24-37.

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

664 (1) 'Complete credentialing application' means the submission of a credentialing
665 application and any supporting documents for a healthcare provider to a health insurer.

666 (2) 'Credentialing' means to collect, verify, and assess whether a healthcare provider
667 meets relevant licensing, education, and training requirements.

668 (b) Every health insurer shall approve complete credentialing applications from healthcare
669 providers within 45 days of receipt of any such application if submitted in accordance with
670 the rules and regulations promulgated by the department.

671 (c) The department and the Department of Community Health shall coordinate with
672 stakeholders to establish a standardized credentialing application for use in credentialing
673 healthcare providers, which may be based on acceptance of data from or integration with
674 the credentialing verification system used by the state Medicaid program to verify the
675 qualifications, licenses, education, training, and professional history of healthcare
676 providers.

677 (d) No later than July 1, 2027, every health insurer shall utilize the standardized
678 credentialing application established pursuant to subsection (c) of this Code section.

679 (e) No later than January 1, 2027, the department shall promulgate rules and regulations
680 to implement the provisions of this Code section. Reserved."

681 **PART III**
682 **SECTION 3-1.**

683 Title 37 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to mental health, is amended in
684 Article 1 of Chapter 2, relating to general provisions regarding the administration of mental
685 health, developmental disabilities, addictive diseases, and other disability services, by
686 revising Code Section 37-2-4, relating to the Behavioral Health Coordinating Council and
687 its membership, meetings, and obligations, by revising subsections (a) and (c.1) and by
688 adding a new subsection to read as follows:

689 "(a) There is created the Behavioral Health Coordinating Council. The council shall
690 consist of the commissioner of behavioral health and developmental disabilities; the
691 commissioner of early care and learning; the commissioner of community health; the
692 commissioner of public health; the commissioner of human services; the commissioner of
693 juvenile justice; the commissioner of corrections; the commissioner of veterans service; the
694 commissioner of community supervision; the commissioner of community affairs; the
695 commissioner of the Technical College System of Georgia; the Commissioner of Labor;
696 the State School Superintendent; the Commissioner of Insurance; the chairperson of the
697 State Board of Pardons and Paroles; a behavioral health expert employed by the University
698 System of Georgia, designated by the chancellor of the university system; two members,
699 appointed by the Governor; the ombudsman appointed pursuant to Code Section 37-2-32;
700 the Child Advocate for the Protection of Children; an expert on early childhood mental
701 health, appointed by the Governor; an expert on child and adolescent health, appointed by
702 the Governor; a pediatrician, appointed by the Governor; an adult consumer of public
703 behavioral health services, appointed by the Governor; a family member of a consumer of

704 public behavioral health services, appointed by the Governor; a parent of a child receiving
 705 public behavioral health services, appointed by the Governor; a member of the House of
 706 Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and a member
 707 of the Senate, appointed by the President of the Senate."

708 "(c.1) The commissioner of behavioral health and developmental disabilities, the
 709 commissioner of early care and learning, the commissioner of community health, the
 710 commissioner of public health, the commissioner of human services, the commissioner of
 711 juvenile justice, the commissioner of corrections, the commissioner of veterans service, the
 712 commissioner of community supervision, the commissioner of community affairs, the
 713 commissioner of the Technical College System of Georgia, the Commissioner of Labor,
 714 the State School Superintendent, the Commissioner of Insurance, and the chairperson of
 715 the State Board of Pardons and Paroles shall each be authorized to be represented by a
 716 delegate or agent at any meeting of the council or subcommittee meeting. Any such
 717 delegate or agent shall be counted toward a quorum, shall have all voting privileges as the
 718 member's delegate or agent, and shall not be considered an absence of the member."

719 "(j) The council shall serve in an advisory role for the parity compliance review panel
 720 established pursuant to Code Section 37-2-12."

721 **SECTION 3-2.**

722 Said title is further amended in said article by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

723 "37-2-12.

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

725 (1) 'Health care provider' means any health care professional licensed under Title 43 or
 726 any hospital or other health care facility licensed or regulated under Chapter 7 of Title 31
 727 or under this title.

728 (2) 'Panel' means the parity compliance review panel established pursuant to this Code
 729 section.

730 (b) There is established a parity compliance review panel within the council to be
731 composed of:

732 (1) The following members of the council:

733 (A) The commissioner of community health, or his or her designee;

734 (B) The commissioner of behavioral health and developmental disabilities, or his or her
735 designee;

736 (C) The commissioner of human services, or his or her designee; and

737 (D) The Commissioner of Insurance, or his or her designee; and

738 (2) The following appointed members:

739 (A) Two mental health clinicians, appointed by the Governor;

740 (B) Two senior executives of facilities or systems providing mental health care,
741 appointed by the Governor;

742 (C) One mental health advocate, appointed by the President of the Senate; and

743 (D) One mental health advocate, appointed by the Speaker of the House of
744 Representatives.

745 (c) Health care providers shall be required to report suspected violations by health insurers
746 of the mental health parity requirements contained in Code Sections 33-1-27 and
747 33-21A-13.

748 (d) The panel shall establish a simple and intuitive process to receive complaints reported
749 by health care providers pursuant to subsection (c) of this Code section. The panel shall
750 evaluate submitted complaints to determine whether a health insurer is in violation of
751 mental health parity laws. Based on such evaluation, the panel shall make
752 recommendations as to appropriate punitive actions, if any, that may be warranted for a
753 health insurer to the Commissioner of Insurance for violations of Code Section 33-1-27 and
754 to the commissioner of community health for violations of Code Section 33-21A-13.

755 (e) The panel shall be authorized to:

- 756 (1) Receive and analyze required reports from insurance companies and health care
757 providers;
- 758 (2) Request additional information from health insurers regarding potential mental health
759 parity violations, including determinations of medical necessity;
- 760 (3) Create and review educational materials for consumers and health care providers
761 relating to compliance with mental health parity laws. Such educational materials shall
762 include information on the concept of mental health parity, individuals' rights, and the
763 complaint processes established pursuant to subsection (e) of Code Section 33-1-27,
764 subsection (e) of Code Section 33-21A-13, and subsection (d) of this Code section. All
765 such educational materials shall be culturally and linguistically sensitive, to the extent
766 practicable; available in multiple languages; widely distributed; and offered in various
767 formats, such as on a public website, in a brochure, and in written documentation; and
- 768 (4) Consult and coordinate with the Governor's office, the Department of Community
769 Health, and the office of the Commissioner of Insurance to establish criteria and
770 procedures for the panel in formulating recommendations relating to punitive action for
771 insurance companies that are not compliant with mental health parity laws.
- 772 (f) Subject to available funds, the panel shall establish a team to support the work of the
773 panel, including, but not limited to, research, report preparation, and creation of educational
774 materials."

775 **PART IV**
776 **SECTION 4-1.**

777 This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2026.

778 **SECTION 4-2.**

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