

House Bill 1042 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representatives Jasperse of the 11th, England of the 116th, Watson of the 172nd, Corbett of the 174th, Barton of the 5th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 34 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the
2 "OneGeorgia Authority Act," so as to provide for a grant program to establish primary care
3 medical facilities in health professional shortage areas; to provide for lease-purchase
4 agreements; to provide for definitions; to provide for criteria for such program; to provide
5 for application and approval thereof; to provide for rules and regulations; to provide for
6 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 34 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the
10 "OneGeorgia Authority Act," is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

11 "50-34-20.

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

13 (1) 'Mental health care provider' means:

14 (A) A clinical nurse specialist in psychiatric/mental health authorized under the laws
15 of this state to practice as a registered professional nurse and who is recognized by the

16 Georgia Board of Nursing to be engaged in advanced nursing practice as a clinical
17 nurse specialist in psychiatric/mental health;

18 (B) A clinical social worker authorized to practice under the laws of this state;

19 (C) A marriage and family therapist authorized to practice under the laws of this state;

20 (D) A professional counselor authorized to practice under the laws of this state;

21 (E) A psychologist authorized to practice under the laws of this state; and

22 (F) A psychiatrist authorized to practice under the laws of this state.

23 (2) 'Primary care medical facility' means any facility where the majority of the services
24 provided are primary care, dental, or mental health services.

25 (3) 'Primary care medical provider' means any person authorized under the laws of this
26 state to practice as a dentist, physician, or mental health care provider.

27 (b) Subject to available funding, the authority shall establish and administer a grant
28 program which shall serve the purpose of awarding grants to eligible applicants to establish
29 primary care medical facilities in health professional shortage areas as designated by the
30 Department of Community Health.

31 (c) Any development authority established pursuant to Chapter 62 of Title 36 shall be
32 eligible to apply for such a grant provided that, prior to application, the local governing
33 bodies that created such authority have endorsed the proposed project in writing and have
34 pledged to contribute to the project as prescribed by the rules and regulations of the
35 authority.

36 (d) To the extent permitted by Chapter 62 of Title 36, a development authority may:

37 (1) Enter into a lease-purchase agreement with one or more primary care medical
38 providers to lease and operate the primary care medical facility established with funds
39 provided pursuant to this Code section; and

40 (2) Convey any remaining ownership interest in such facility to such primary care
41 medical providers who have provided services at the facility under such lease-purchase
42 agreement for at least ten years.

43 (e) The amount of any grant awarded pursuant to this Code section shall not exceed
44 \$200,000.00 and shall be determined by the authority on a case-by-case review of
45 applications consistent with criteria to be prescribed by the authority which shall include,
46 but shall not be limited to, the:

47 (1) Primary care shortage in the community;

48 (2) Degree of local commitment;

49 (3) Consistency with local and regional healthcare goals and objectives;

50 (4) Project readiness and feasibility;

51 (5) Geographic distribution of existing primary care facilities; and

52 (6) Reasonableness of cost estimates.

53 (f) All applications for grants under this Code section shall include a recommendation
54 from the Department of Community Health that the proposed project will significantly
55 develop and promote a primary care medical facility and promote the general welfare of
56 this state.

57 (g) After reviewing an application, the authority shall submit any pending grant award to
58 the Governor and the Board of Community Health for approval before such grant shall be
59 awarded.

60 (h) The authority shall adopt such rules and regulations as are reasonable and necessary
61 to implement and administer the grant program established under this Code section."

62 **SECTION 2.**

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