

Senate Bill 106

By: Senators Walker III of the 20th, Kennedy of the 18th, Gooch of the 51st, Robertson of the 29th, Anavitarte of the 31st and others

AS PASSED

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 2A of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the
2 Department of Public Health, so as to provide for a pilot program for home visiting in at-risk
3 and underserved rural communities during pregnancy and early childhood to improve birth
4 outcomes; to provide for a report; to provide for contingent effectiveness; to amend Article 7
5 of Chapter 4 of Title 49 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to medical
6 assistance generally, so as to provide for a report on coverage for remote maternal health
7 clinical services provided to Medicaid recipients who meet eligibility criteria; to provide a
8 definition; to provide for automatic repeal; to provide for related matters; to provide for a
9 short title; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

11 **SECTION 1.**

12 This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Healthy Babies Act."

13 **SECTION 2.**

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14 Chapter 2A of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the Department
15 of Public Health, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

16 "31-2A-19.

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

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

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

29 **SECTION 3.**

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

32 "49-4-159.2.

33 (a)(1) As used in this Code section, the term 'remote maternal health clinical services'
34 means the use of digital technology:

35 (A) To collect medical and other forms of health data from a patient and electronically
36 transmitting that information securely to a healthcare provider in a different location for
37 interpretation and recommendation; and

38 (B) Through a device that is compliant with the federal Health Insurance Portability
39 and Accountability Act of 1996 and approved by the federal Food and Drug
40 Administration.

41 (2) Such term includes a device that:

42 (A) Performs remote fetal monitoring, including maternal heart rate, fetal heart rate,
43 amniotic fluid, placenta location, fetal presentation, tone, and movement;

44 (B) Measures physiological data, including blood pressure, pulse, pulse oximetry,
45 weight, blood glucose levels, or other such data determined to be medically necessary;

46 (C) Uses remote non-stress test technology;

47 (D) Uses remote ultrasound technology; or

48 (E) Uses Doppler effect technology.

49 (b) No later than October 31, 2025, the department shall submit a detailed written report
50 on the provision of remote maternal health clinical services for Fiscal Year 2024 and Fiscal
51 Year 2025 to recipients of medical assistance who meet eligibility criteria established by
52 the department to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Speaker of the House of
53 Representatives, and the chairpersons of the House Committee on Health, the Senate
54 Health and Human Services Committee, the House Committee on Appropriations, and the
55 Senate Appropriations Committee.

56 (c) This Code section shall stand repealed by operation of law on December 31, 2025."

57 **SECTION 4.**

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