

House Bill 1054

By: Representatives Cooper of the 43<sup>rd</sup>, Silcox of the 52<sup>nd</sup>, and Martin of the 49<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 12 of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
2 control of hazardous conditions, preventable diseases, and metabolic disorders, so as to  
3 revise provisions relating to newborn screening for various disorders; to create the Newborn  
4 Screening and Genetics Advisory Committee to review and make recommendations to the  
5 department when a new disorder is added to the federal Recommended Uniform Screening  
6 Panel; to provide for requests for appropriations to cover new disorders; to provide for  
7 related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

10 Chapter 12 of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to control of  
11 hazardous conditions, preventable diseases, and metabolic disorders, is amended by revising  
12 Code Section 31-12-6, relating to a system for prevention of serious illness, severe physical  
13 or developmental disability, and death resulting from inherited metabolic and genetic  
14 disorders, as follows:

15 "31-12-6.

16 (a) The department shall promulgate rules and regulations creating a newborn screening  
17 system for the prevention of serious illness, severe physical or developmental disability,  
18 and death caused by ~~genetic conditions, such as phenylketonuria, galactosemia,~~  
19 ~~homocystinuria, maple syrup urine disease, hypothyroidism, congenital adrenal~~  
20 ~~hyperplasia, Krabbe disease, and such other~~ inherited metabolic and genetic disorders as  
21 identified by the department. The department shall be authorized to consider  
22 recommendations from the Newborn Screening and Genetics Advisory Committee  
23 established pursuant to subsection (i) of this Code section, to include disorders which are  
24 added to the federal Recommended Uniform Screening Panel and may be identified in the  
25 future to result in serious illness, severe physical or developmental disability, and death if  
26 undiagnosed and untreated. ~~The system shall have five components: screening newborns~~

27 ~~for the disorders; retrieving potentially affected screenees back into the health care system;~~  
28 ~~accomplishing specific diagnoses; initiating and continuing therapy; and assessing the~~  
29 ~~program.~~

30 (a.1) The department shall provide for newborn screening for Krabbe disease conducted  
31 separately at the option of the parent or parents. Any fees for the screening for Krabbe  
32 disease pursuant to this subsection shall be paid directly by the parents to the laboratory.  
33 Notwithstanding subsection (g) of this Code section, screening for Krabbe disease may be  
34 conducted by a laboratory located outside of this state, if approved by the board. In the  
35 event that Krabbe disease is included in the newborn screening system by the department  
36 pursuant to this Code section, the cost of such screening for Krabbe disease may funded  
37 by the department in its discretion.

38 (b) The entire process for screening, retrieval, and diagnosis must occur within time  
39 frames established by the department pursuant to rules and regulations, and the system  
40 shall be structured to meet this critical need.

41 (c) The department shall be responsible for the screening of all newborns for the disorders  
42 enumerated by the department and in a manner determined by the department pursuant to  
43 rules and regulations and shall be responsible for assessment of the program; ~~provided;~~  
44 ~~however, that screening for Krabbe disease shall be conducted separately at the option of~~  
45 ~~the parent or parents. When any new disorder is approved by the department after~~  
46 ~~recommendation by the Newborn Screening and Genetics Advisory Committee established~~  
47 ~~pursuant to subsection (i) of this Code section, the department shall submit a budget request~~  
48 ~~to the General Assembly prior to its next legislative session seeking appropriations to cover~~  
49 ~~the new disorder added to the newborn screening system. The department shall begin~~  
50 ~~screening newborns for any such new disorder no less than 18 months after such~~  
51 ~~appropriation becomes effective.~~

52 (d) The department shall, to the extent state or federal funds are available for such  
53 purposes, including but not limited to funds provided under Title V of the Social Security  
54 Act, the Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant, provide for retrieving potentially  
55 affected screenees back into the health care system; accomplishing specific diagnoses;,  
56 initiating and continuing therapy; and assessing the program.

57 (e) The department shall utilize appropriate existing resources whenever possible and shall  
58 cause the coordination and cooperation of agencies and organizations having resources  
59 necessary for the creation of an effective system.

60 (f) The department shall be authorized to establish and periodically adjust, by rule and  
61 regulation, fees associated with the screening, retrieval, and diagnosis conducted pursuant  
62 to this Code section to help defray or meet the costs incurred by the department; ~~provided;~~  
63 ~~however, that the fees for screening for Krabbe disease shall be paid directly by the parents~~

64 ~~to the laboratory.~~ In no event shall the fees exceed such costs, both direct and indirect, in  
65 providing such screenings and related services, provided that no services shall be denied  
66 on the basis of inability to pay. All fees paid thereunder shall be paid into the general fund  
67 of the State of Georgia.

68 (g) The department shall allow any laboratory licensed in Georgia and authorized to  
69 perform screening ~~testing~~ of newborn infants in any state using normal pediatric reference  
70 ranges to conduct the analysis required pursuant to this Code section; provided, however,  
71 that the screening ~~for Krabbe disease~~ may be conducted by a laboratory located outside of  
72 Georgia if approved by the board. The testing performed by such laboratory must include  
73 testing for newborn diseases as required by law or regulation, ~~except for Krabbe disease~~  
74 as otherwise provided by the department, and shall provide test results and reports  
75 consistent with law and with policies, procedures, and regulations of the department.

76 ~~(h) No later than January 1, 2007, the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts shall~~  
77 ~~conduct an assessment evaluating the efficiency and effectiveness of the newborn~~  
78 ~~screenings conducted by the Georgia Public Health Laboratory pursuant to this Code~~  
79 ~~section. If it is determined that private laboratories can provide testing at a lower cost than~~  
80 ~~the Georgia Public Health Laboratory, the department shall issue a request for proposals~~  
81 ~~to qualified vendors including any private laboratory licensed in Georgia as established in~~  
82 ~~subsection (g) of this Code section. The Georgia Public Health Laboratory shall be eligible~~  
83 ~~to respond to such request for proposals.~~

84 ~~(i)(h)~~ The requirements of this Code section with regard to screening, retrieval, and  
85 diagnosis shall not apply to any infant whose parents object in writing thereto on the  
86 grounds that such tests and treatment conflict with their religious tenets and practices.

87 (i) There is established the Newborn Screening and Genetics Advisory Committee. The  
88 advisory committee shall consist of not less than 11 nor more than 21 members to be  
89 appointed by the commissioner. Each member of the advisory committee shall serve a  
90 three-year term and until the appointment of his or her successor. Any member may be  
91 reappointed by the commissioner. The advisory committee shall meet at least two times  
92 per year or upon the call of the chairperson. The advisory committee shall consider and  
93 make recommendations to the commissioner related to the inclusion of screening for any  
94 disorder added to the federal Recommended Uniform Screening Panel (RUSP), within one  
95 year of such addition. As part of such recommendations, the advisory committee shall  
96 advise the commissioner on the estimated cost to the department for screening for such  
97 disorder. The advisory committee shall be authorized to establish ad hoc subcommittees  
98 and to advise the commissioner on procedures for collection and transmission of specimens  
99 and the recording of diagnostic results."

100

**SECTION 2.**

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