

House Bill 755

By: Representatives Cannon of the 58th and Hawkins of the 27th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 17A of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 control of HIV, so as to establish a pilot program to provide preexposure prophylaxis drug
3 assistance or services to persons at risk of being infected with HIV; to provide for
4 requirements; to provide for implementation of the pilot program; to provide for a written
5 report; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Chapter 17A of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to control of
9 HIV, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

10 "31-17A-4.

11 (a) The department shall conduct a three-year pilot program for the purpose of providing
12 preexposure prophylaxis drug assistance or services to persons who have tested negative
13 for the HIV infection but who have risk factors that expose them to HIV. The pilot
14 program shall be conducted in counties identified by the federal Centers for Disease
15 Control and Prevention as at risk of outbreaks of HIV as a result of a high rate of opioid
16 related use or in such other counties as determined by the department. In designing the
17 pilot program, the department may obtain advisement and consultation from county health
18 departments in counties in this state that have an existing preexposure prophylaxis drug
19 assistance program or related services.

20 (b) The pilot program shall provide assistance for preexposure prophylaxis medications
21 approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration and for medical, laboratory, and
22 outreach costs incurred in treatment. The department shall establish benchmark data at the
23 beginning of the pilot program which shall be compared to data at the end of the pilot
24 program to measure the effectiveness of the program. Participants in the pilot program
25 shall be subject to clinical guidelines established by the department consistent with
26 guidance from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which may include,

27 but not be limited to, regular HIV testing, education information, sexually transmitted
28 infection testing, and supportive services. Education information may be provided in
29 writing, orally, or both.

30 (c) The department shall be authorized to solicit and accept grants of funding or in-kind
31 services for use in conducting the pilot program.

32 (d) The department is authorized to establish such rules and regulations as may be
33 necessary to implement the pilot program.

34 (e) No later than December 31, 2021, the department shall submit a detailed written report
35 on the implementation and effectiveness of the pilot program to the Governor, the Speaker
36 of the House of Representatives, the President of the Senate, and the chairpersons of the
37 House Committee on Health and Human Services and the Senate Health and Human
38 Services Committee. Such report shall also include recommendations as to expansion of
39 the pilot program state wide."

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SECTION 2.

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