

House Bill 958 (COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE)

By: Representatives Setzler of the 35th, Rich of the 97th, Wiedower of the 119th, and Gaines of the 117th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 1 of Chapter 5 of Title 49 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to children and youth services, so as to provide for registration of maternity
3 supportive housing residences to provide housing for pregnant women; to define a term; to
4 provide for requirements; to prohibit rules and regulations; to prohibit constraints imposed
5 by local governments; to provide for statutory construction; to provide for related matters;
6 to provide a short title; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 This Act shall be known and may be cited as "The Maternity Supportive Housing Act."

10 **SECTION 2.**

11 Article 1 of Chapter 5 of Title 49 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
12 children and youth services, is amended in Code Section 49-5-3, relating to definitions, by
13 adding a new paragraph to read as follows:

14 "(13.1) 'Maternity supportive housing residence' means a residential home that houses
15 on behalf of a church, religious organization, or nonprofit organization, up to six pregnant
16 women aged 18 years or older and their children, at any one time during the woman's
17 pregnancy and up to 18 months after childbirth; provided, however, that no other services
18 other than housing shall be provided. This term shall not include women who receive
19 maternity care in the home of a relative or in general or special hospitals."

20 **SECTION 3.**

21 Said article is further amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

22 "49-5-25.

23 (a)(1) On and after July 1, 2020, all maternity supportive housing residences shall
24 register under this Code section by submitting an application to the department, upon

25 forms furnished by the department. The form shall require the name, address, and
26 telephone number of the maternity supportive housing residence and emergency contact
27 information.

28 (2) A registrant shall be required to pay an annual registration fee of \$25.00 to the
29 department.

30 (3) The department shall issue a registration certificate, valid for one year, to a maternity
31 supportive housing residence upon receipt of an application for registration, payment of
32 the registration fee, and attestation by the applicant that the maternity supportive housing
33 residence:

34 (A) Has written policies and procedures for admission, intake, and record keeping;

35 (B) Is in compliance with applicable residential building codes; and

36 (C) Has property insurance coverage on the residence which covers the residents,
37 newborns, and other children.

38 (b) The department shall not have the authority to implement rules and regulations for the
39 registration of maternity supportive housing residences but shall have the authority to
40 maintain any records submitted by a residence pursuant to paragraph (3) of subsection (a)
41 of this Code section.

42 (c) No county, municipality, or consolidated government shall, by rule or ordinance,
43 constrain the establishment or operation of maternity supportive housing residences or
44 place occupancy requirements on such residences that would not apply to a single family
45 living in the residence.

46 (d) Nothing in this Code section shall be construed to require a maternity home to register
47 with the department pursuant to this Code section or for a maternity supportive housing
48 residence to obtain a license or permit as a maternity home or to meet the requirements of
49 a maternity home."

50 **SECTION 4.**

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