

Senate Bill 116

By: Senators Robertson of the 29th, Anderson of the 24th, Anavitarte of the 31st, Payne of the 54th, Thompson of the 14th and others

AS PASSED

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 additional rules and regulations; to prohibit constraints
5 imposed by local governments; to provide for statutory construction; to provide for related
6 matters; 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 "Betsy's Law."

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 nonprofit organization up to six pregnant women aged 18 years or older

16 and their minor children at any one time during the woman's pregnancy and up to 18
17 months after childbirth; provided, however, that no medical services shall be provided.
18 This term shall not include: (i) a child welfare agency, as defined in Code Section
19 49-5-12; (ii) the residential home of a relative in which a woman receives maternity care;
20 or (iii) a general or special hospital."

21 **SECTION 3.**

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

23 "49-5-25.

24 (a)(1) On and after July 1, 2022, all maternity supportive housing residences shall
25 register in accordance with this Code section by submitting an application to the
26 department upon forms furnished by the department. The form furnished by the
27 department shall require the name, address, and telephone number of the maternity
28 supportive housing residence and emergency contact information.

29 (2) A registrant shall be required to pay an annual registration fee of \$250.00 to the
30 department.

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

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

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

37 (C) Has property insurance coverage on the residence; and

38 (D) Has the ability to provide, either directly or through partnerships with local
39 nonprofits or government agencies and programs, assistance with wraparound services
40 such as nutritional support, childcare, transportation, and vocational training.

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

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

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

53

SECTION 4.

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