

Senate Bill 307

By: Senators Unterman of the 45th, Miller of the 49th, Harbin of the 16th, Gooch of the 51st, Jones of the 25th and others

**AS PASSED SENATE**

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT**

To amend Chapter 5 of Title 49 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to programs and protection for children and youth, so as to provide for registration of supportive housing maternity residences to provide housing for pregnant women; to define a term; to provide for rules and regulations; to provide for the right to inspect; to provide for statutory construction; to provide for related matters; to provide a short title; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:**

**SECTION 1.**

This Act shall be known and may be cited as "The Living Hope Home Act."

**SECTION 2.**

Article 1 of Chapter 5 of Title 49 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to children and youth services, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

"49-5-25.

(a) As used in this Code section, the term 'supportive housing maternity residence' means a residential home that houses up to six pregnant women aged 18 years or older at any one time during the woman's pregnancy and up to 18 months after childbirth; provided, however, that no other services besides housing shall be provided. This term shall not include women who receive maternity care in the home of a relative or in general or special hospitals.

(b)(1) On and after July 1, 2020, all supportive housing maternity residences shall register under this Code section by submitting a form to the department, upon forms furnished by the department. The form shall require the name, address, and telephone number of the supportive housing maternity residence and emergency contact information.

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

(3) Upon receipt of an application for registration, payment of the registration fees, and presentation by the applicant of evidence that the supportive housing maternity residence meets the qualifications prescribed pursuant to subsection (c) of this Code section, the department shall issue such supportive housing maternity residence a registration certificate valid for one year.

(c) The department shall implement rules and regulations for the registration of supportive housing maternity residences, including, but not limited to:

(1) Written policies and procedures for admission, intake, and record keeping;

(2) Compliance with applicable safety codes and other requirements of the physical facility;

(3) Proof of liability insurance coverage sufficient to cover the residents and newborns; and

(4) Other requirements deemed necessary by the department to ensure the health and safety of the residents and newborns.

(d) The department shall be given the right to periodically inspect the facilities of registered supportive housing maternity residences. If any flagrant abuses, derelictions, or deficiencies are made known to the department or its duly authorized agents during their inspection of any supportive housing maternity residence or if, at any time, such are reported to the department, the department shall immediately investigate such matters and take such action as conditions may require.

(e) Nothing in this Code section shall be construed to require a maternity home, as defined in Code Section 49-5-3, to register with the department pursuant to this Code section."

### **SECTION 3.**

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