

Senate Bill 375

By: Senators Strickland of the 17th, Jackson of the 41st, Kirkpatrick of the 32nd, Watson of the 1st and Payne of the 54th

**AS PASSED SENATE**

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 37-2-4 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the  
2 Behavioral Health Coordinating Council, membership, meetings, and obligations, so as to  
3 add the commissioner of veterans service as a member of such council; to provide for related  
4 matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 **SECTION 1.**

7 Code Section 37-2-4 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the Behavioral  
8 Health Coordinating Council, membership, meetings, and obligations, is amended by  
9 revising subsections (a) and (h) as follows:

10 "37-2-4.

11 (a) There is created the Behavioral Health Coordinating Council. The council shall consist  
12 of the commissioner of behavioral health and developmental disabilities; the commissioner  
13 of early care and learning; the commissioner of community health; the commissioner of  
14 public health; the commissioner of human services; the commissioner of juvenile justice;  
15 the commissioner of corrections; the commissioner of veterans service; the commissioner  
16 of community supervision; the commissioner of community affairs; the commissioner of  
17 the Technical College System of Georgia; the Commissioner of Labor; the State School

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18 Superintendent; the chairperson of the State Board of Pardons and Paroles; a behavioral  
19 health expert employed by the University System of Georgia, designated by the chancellor  
20 of the university system; two members, appointed by the Governor; the ombudsman  
21 appointed pursuant to Code Section 37-2-32; the Child Advocate for the Protection of  
22 Children; an expert on early childhood mental health, appointed by the Governor; an expert  
23 on child and adolescent health, appointed by the Governor; a pediatrician, appointed by the  
24 Governor; an adult consumer of public behavioral health services, appointed by the  
25 Governor; a family member of a consumer of public behavioral health services, appointed  
26 by the Governor; a parent of a child receiving public behavioral health services, appointed  
27 by the Governor; a member of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of  
28 the House of Representatives; and a member of the Senate, appointed by the ~~Lieutenant~~  
29 ~~Governor~~ President of the Senate."

30 "(h)(1) The council shall submit annual reports no later than October 1 of its  
31 recommendations and evaluation of its implementation and any recommendations for  
32 funding to the Office of Health Strategy and Coordination, the Governor, the Speaker of  
33 the House of Representatives, and the ~~Lieutenant Governor~~ President of the Senate.

34 (2) The recommendations developed by the council and the annual reports of the council  
35 shall be presented to the board of each member department for approval or review at least  
36 annually at a publicly scheduled meeting."

37 **SECTION 2.**

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