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HOUSE BILL 498  
Committee Substitute Favorable 5/13/91  
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Senate Human Resources Committee Substitute Adopted 7/3/91

Short Title: Health Director Qualifications.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

April 1, 1991

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE POSITION OF LOCAL HEALTH DIRECTOR.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1. G.S. 130A-40 reads as rewritten:

**"§ 130A-40. Appointment of local health director.**

(a) A local board of health, after consulting with the appropriate county board or boards of commissioners, shall appoint a local health director. ~~The State Personnel Commission, after consulting with the Commission for Health Services, shall establish qualifications for a local health director. The qualifications shall give equal emphasis to education and experience. However, a local health director shall not be required to be a physician.~~ All persons who are appointed to the position of local health director on or after January 1, 1992, must possess minimum education and experience requirements for that position, as follows:

- (1) A medical doctorate; or
- (2) A masters degree in Public Health Administration, and at least one year of employment experience in health programs or health services; or
- (3) A masters degree in a public health discipline other than public health administration, and at least three years of employment experience in health programs or health services; or

1           (4) A masters degree in public administration, and at least two years of  
2           experience in health programs or health services; or

3           (5) A masters degree in a field related to public health, and at least three  
4           years of experience in health programs or health services; or

5           (6) A bachelors degree in public health administration or public  
6           administration and at least three years of experience in health  
7           programs or health services.

8           (b) Before appointing a person to the position of local health director under  
9           subsection (a)(5) of this section, the local board of health shall forward the application  
10           and other pertinent materials of such candidate to the State Health Director. If the State  
11           Health Director determines that the candidate's masters degree is in a field not related to  
12           public health, the State Health Director shall so notify the local board of health in  
13           writing within 15 days of the State Health Director's receipt of the application and  
14           materials, and such candidate shall be deemed not to meet the education requirements of  
15           subsection (a)(5) of this section. If the State Health Director fails to act upon the  
16           application within 15 days of receipt of the application and materials from the local  
17           board of health, the application shall be deemed approved with respect to the education  
18           requirements of subsection (a)(5) of this section, and the local board of health may  
19           proceed with appointment process.

20           (c) The State Health Director shall review requests of educational institutions to  
21           determine whether a particular masters degree offered by the requesting institution is  
22           related to public health for the purposes of subsection (a)(5) of this section. The State  
23           Health Director shall act upon such requests within 90 days of receipt of the request and  
24           pertinent materials from the institution, and shall notify the institution of its  
25           determination in writing within the 90-day review period. If the State Health Director  
26           determines that an institution's particular masters degree is not related to public health,  
27           the State Health Director shall include the reasons therefor in his written determination  
28           to the institution.

29           (d) When a local board of health fails to appoint a local health director within 60  
30           days of the creation of a vacancy, the State Health Director may appoint a local health  
31           director to serve until the local board of health appoints a local health director in  
32           accordance with this section."

33           Sec. 2. This act becomes effective January 1, 1992.