

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**

**SESSION 1991**

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SENATE BILL 81\*  
Second Edition Engrossed 3/13/91

Short Title: Stand./Alzheimer's Spec. Care Units.

(Public)

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Sponsors: Senators Carpenter, Cochrane, Speed, Richardson; and Forrester.

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Referred to: Human Resources.

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February 14, 1991

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT REQUIRING THAT THE NORTH CAROLINA MEDICAL CARE  
2 COMMISSION AND THE SOCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION DRAFT RULES  
3 CONTAINING STATE STANDARDS FOR SPECIAL CARE UNITS IN  
4 NURSING HOMES AND REST HOMES FOR ALZHEIMER'S AND RELATED  
5 DEMENTIA PATIENTS AND THAT THESE COMMISSIONS MAKE A  
6 REPORT TO THE STUDY COMMISSION ON AGING.  
7

8 Whereas, there are approximately 60,000 men and women in North Carolina  
9 who are victims of Alzheimer's disease and related dementia; and

10 Whereas, many of these people, who require specialized care, are being  
11 placed in nursing homes and rest homes where there is no specialized care for  
12 Alzheimer's and related dementia patients; and

13 Whereas, there are no State standards governing the care of Alzheimer's and  
14 related dementia patients in nursing homes and rest homes; Now, therefore,  
15 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

16 Section 1. As used in this act, the term "special care unit" means a wing or  
17 hallway within a nursing home or rest home that is separated by closed doors from the  
18 rest of the nursing home or rest home and that is designed especially for residents with  
19 Alzheimer's disease and related dementia.

20 Sec. 2. The North Carolina Medical Care Commission shall adopt rules  
21 containing State standards for special care units in nursing homes for patients with  
22 Alzheimer's disease and related dementia. These standards shall include guidelines  
23 concerning the type of care provided in a special care unit, the type of resident who can

1 be served on the unit, the ratio of residents to staff members, and the requirements for  
2 the training of staff members. The Commission shall make a report, which shall include  
3 these standards, to the North Carolina Study Commission on Aging, established by  
4 Article 21 of Chapter 120 of the General Statutes, by October 1, 1991.

5           Sec. 3. The Social Services Commission shall adopt rules containing State  
6 standards for special care units in rest homes for patients with Alzheimer's disease and  
7 related dementia. These standards shall include guidelines concerning the type of care  
8 provided in a special care unit, the type of resident who can be served on the unit, the  
9 ratio of residents to staff members, and the requirements for the training of staff  
10 members. The Commission shall also determine the cost of requiring training and of  
11 any additional staff needed to implement this act. The Commission shall make a report,  
12 which shall include these standards and the cost determinations, to the North Carolina  
13 Commission on Aging, established by Article 21 of Chapter 120 of the General Statutes,  
14 by October 1, 1991.

15           Sec. 4. This act is effective upon ratification.