

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2003**

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**SENATE BILL 672**

Short Title: Strengthen Public Health Infrastructure. (Public)

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Sponsors: Senator Hartsell.

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Referred to: Health & Human Resources.

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April 2, 2003

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY OF THE  
2 PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM BY STRENGTHENING THE PUBLIC HEALTH  
3 INFRASTRUCTURE, TO IMPROVE PUBLIC HEALTH OUTCOMES AND  
4 REDUCE HEALTH DISPARITIES BY THE DEVELOPMENT OF STATE AND  
5 LOCAL COMPREHENSIVE PUBLIC HEALTH PLANS, AND TO IMPROVE  
6 THE PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE BY ENHANCING COLLABORATION  
7 WITH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR ENTITIES AND IMPOSING  
8 PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTICE.  
9

10       Whereas, North Carolina has a rich local public health heritage and wishes to  
11 continue that heritage by strengthening the State's public health infrastructure;

12       Whereas, the public health system must respond to: new serious public health  
13 emergencies, significant changes in population, decreasing funding, and significant  
14 variations in public health protection between counties and regions;

15       Whereas, the mission of protecting and promoting the health of the public can  
16 most efficiently and effectively be addressed through the coordinated efforts of State  
17 and local public health agencies, the collaboration of the public and private sectors  
18 within the public health system, and the consolidation of local public health agencies;

19       Whereas, a consensus for establishing, prioritizing and implementing  
20 essential public health services and functions can be achieved through locally developed  
21 and coordinated health plans that provide the foundation for a comprehensive statewide  
22 public health plan; and

23       Whereas, the public and private sectors can demonstrate public accountability  
24 and provide high quality services through accreditation, certification, credentialing, and  
25 the implementation of performance standards; Now, therefore,

26 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

27       **SECTION 1.** G.S. 130A-1.1 is repealed.

28       **SECTION 2.** G.S. 130A-2 reads as rewritten:

29       "§ 130A-2. **Definitions.**

1 The following definitions shall apply throughout this Chapter unless otherwise  
2 specified:

- 3 (1) "Commission" means the Commission for Health Services.  
4 (1a) "Communicable condition" means the state of being infected with a  
5 communicable agent but without symptoms.  
6 (1b) "Communicable disease" means an illness due to an infectious agent or  
7 its toxic products which is transmitted directly or indirectly to a person  
8 from an infected person or animal through the agency of an  
9 intermediate animal, host, or vector, or through the inanimate  
10 environment.  
11 (2) "Department" means the Department of Health and Human Services.  
12 (2a) "Essential public health services and functions" means those services  
13 and functions listed in G.S. 130A-1.3.  
14 (3) "Imminent hazard" means a situation that is likely to cause an  
15 immediate threat to human life, an immediate threat of serious physical  
16 injury, an immediate threat of serious adverse health effects, or a  
17 serious risk of irreparable damage to the environment if no immediate  
18 action is taken.  
19 (3a) "Isolation authority" means the authority to issue an order to limit the  
20 freedom of movement or action of a person or animal with a  
21 communicable disease or communicable condition for the period of  
22 communicability to prevent the direct or indirect conveyance of the  
23 infectious agent from the person or animal to other persons or animals  
24 who are susceptible or who may spread the agent to others.  
25 (4) "Local board of health" means a district board of health or a public  
26 health authority board or a county board of health.  
27 (5) "Local health department" means a district health department or a  
28 public health authority or a county health department.  
29 (6) "Local health director" means the administrative head of a local health  
30 department appointed pursuant to this Chapter.  
31 (6aa) "Local public health agency" means a local health director, a local  
32 board of health, and a local health department.  
33 (6a) "Outbreak" means an occurrence of a case or cases of a disease in a  
34 locale in excess of the usual number of cases of the disease.  
35 (7) "Person" means an individual, corporation, company, association,  
36 partnership, unit of local government or other legal entity.  
37 (7a) "Private sector partner" means nongovernmental persons, including  
38 community organizations, contractors, educational institutions, health  
39 care facilities, health insurers, private businesses, media, nonprofit  
40 organizations, and volunteers, that provide essential public health  
41 services and functions or work to improve public health outcomes in  
42 collaboration with the State or a local public health agency and are  
43 identified in the local public health plans in accordance with G.S.  
44 130A-2.7.

- 1           (7b) "Public health" means assuring the conditions in which the population  
2           can be healthy. The term includes population-based or individual  
3           efforts primarily aimed at the prevention of injury, disease, or  
4           premature mortality or the promotion of health in the community, such  
5           as assessing the health needs and status of the community through  
6           public health surveillance and epidemiological research, developing  
7           public health policy, and responding to public health needs and  
8           emergencies.
- 9           (7c) "Public health agency" means a federal, tribal, State, or local public  
10          health agency.
- 11          (7d) "Public health infrastructure" means the competencies and resources  
12          that enable public health agencies, in collaboration with other  
13          components of the public health system, to provide essential public  
14          health services and functions throughout the State.
- 15          (7e) "Public health system" means State and local public health agencies  
16          and their public and private sector partners.
- 17          (7f) "Public health workforce" means State and local public health agents  
18          and other persons working within the public health system to provide  
19          essential public health services and functions in the State.
- 20          (7g) "Public sector partner" means international, federal, tribal, or other  
21          State or local governments and their public health agencies that  
22          provide essential public health services and functions or work to  
23          improve public health outcomes with a State or local public health  
24          agency.
- 25          ~~(7a)~~(7h) "Quarantine authority" means the authority to issue an order to  
26          limit the freedom of movement or action of persons or animals which  
27          have been exposed to or are reasonably suspected of having been  
28          exposed to a communicable disease or communicable condition for a  
29          period of time as may be necessary to prevent the spread of that  
30          disease. Quarantine authority also means the authority to issue an order  
31          to limit access by any person or animal to an area or facility that may  
32          be contaminated with an infectious agent. The term also means the  
33          authority to issue an order to limit the freedom of movement or action  
34          of persons who have not received immunizations against a  
35          communicable disease when the State Health Director or a local health  
36          director determines that the immunizations are required to control an  
37          outbreak of that disease.
- 38          (8) "Secretary" means the Secretary of Health and Human Services.
- 39          (8a) "State public health agency" means the Commission for Health  
40          Services, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the  
41          Department of Environment and Natural Resources to the extent that  
42          the Department of Environment and Natural Resources has jurisdiction  
43          to protect the public's health.

- 1           (8b) "Tribe" means the same as the term 'Indian Tribe' in 25 U.S.C. §  
2           450b(e), section 4(e) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education  
3           Assistance Act, Pub. L. 93-638, as amended.
- 4           (8c) "Tribal public health agency" means any program or organization  
5           operated by a tribe or tribal organization, including boards, agencies,  
6           commissions, or offices, that principally acts or is responsible to  
7           protect or preserve the public's health and shall include the health  
8           programs of any tribal organization that carries out essential public  
9           health services and functions or otherwise acts to protect or preserve  
10           the public health.
- 11           (8d) "Tribal organization" means the same as the term in 25 U.S.C. §  
12           450b(l), section 4(l) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education  
13           Assistance Act, Pub. L. 93-638, as amended.
- 14           (9) "Unit of local government" means a county, city, consolidated  
15           city-county, sanitary district or other local political subdivision,  
16           authority or agency of local government.
- 17           (10) "Vital records" means birth, death, fetal death, marriage, annulment  
18           and divorce records registered under the provisions of Article 4 of this  
19           Chapter."

20           **SECTION 3.** Part 1 of Article 1 of Chapter 130A is amended by adding the  
21 following new sections to read:

22 **"§ 130A-2.1. Mission statement.**

23           (a) The policy of the State is to protect and promote the health of the public to  
24 the greatest extent possible through the public health system while respecting individual  
25 rights to bodily integrity, health information privacy, nondiscrimination, due process,  
26 and other legally protected interests.

27           (b) The mission of the State and local public health agencies is to provide  
28 leadership and protect and promote the public's health by:

- 29           (1) Providing essential public health services and functions as provided in  
30           G.S. 130A-1.3.
- 31           (2) Encouraging collaboration among public and private sector partners in  
32           the public health system.
- 33           (3) Seeking adequate funding to provide essential public health services  
34           and functions and to accomplish public health goals from public or  
35           private sources.

36           (c) Nothing in this section shall be construed to require the State or local public  
37 health agencies or an individual or agency within the public health system to provide  
38 specific health services or to implement unfunded programs.

39 **"§ 130A-2.2. Responsibilities of State and local governments; private sector**  
40 **collaboration.**

41           (a) The State and counties are responsible for assuring that the public health  
42 system accomplishes the mission of public health.

1       **(b) State and local public health agencies shall collaborate with public and**  
2 **private sector partners within the public health system to provide essential public health**  
3 **services and functions listed in G.S. 130A-33-55.**

4       **(d) State or local public health agencies may contract with contractors or other**  
5 **private sector partners for the purpose of providing essential health services and**  
6 **functions directly through these private sector entities if:**

7           **(1) The contractor has the potential to improve public health outcomes**  
8 **without causing harm to individuals or the public health system.**

9           **(2) Privatized services are fully and regularly monitored by the contracting**  
10 **public health agency or others within the public health system.**  
11 **Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to require private sector**  
12 **entities to be monitored by other public agencies providing services**  
13 **within the public health system. The State public health agency shall**  
14 **devise, in consultation with others within the public health system,**  
15 **evaluation criteria to be used in conducting performance reviews of**  
16 **any private sector partner that provides privatized services or**  
17 **functions.**

18           **(3) Privatized services or functions are subject to other federal, State, or**  
19 **local laws.**

20 **"§ 130A-2.3. Essential public health services and functions.**

21       **(a) State and local public health agencies, in collaboration with public and**  
22 **private sector partners, shall provide the following essential public health services and**  
23 **functions:**

24           **(1) Monitor health status to identify and solve community health**  
25 **problems.**

26           **(2) Diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards in the**  
27 **community.**

28           **(3) Inform people about health issues.**

29           **(4) Develop policies and plans that support individual and community**  
30 **health efforts.**

31           **(5) Enforce laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety.**

32           **(6) Link individuals to needed personal health services and facilitate the**  
33 **provision of health care when not otherwise available.**

34           **(7) Monitor and ensure the competency of the public health workforce.**

35           **(8) Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and**  
36 **population-based health services.**

37           **(9) Conduct research to identify new insights and innovative solutions to**  
38 **health problems.**

39           **(10) Promote the availability and accessibility of quality health care**  
40 **services through health care facilities or providers.**

41           **(11) When not otherwise available through the private sector, collaborate**  
42 **with other public sector partners to promote the availability of and**  
43 **access to preventive and primary health care, including acute and**  
44 **episodic care, prenatal and postpartum care, child health, family**

1 planning, school health, chronic disease preventions, child and adult  
2 immunization, dental health, nutrition, and health education and  
3 promotion services.

4 (b) The essential public health services and functions listed in subsection (a) of  
5 this section shall not be construed to limit or restrict the powers and duties of the  
6 Commission, the Department, or the Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
7 as otherwise conferred by State law.

8 **"§ 130A-2.4. Public health infrastructure.**

9 (a) The Secretary shall coordinate State and local public health agencies and their  
10 public and private sector partners to do the following to strengthen and maintain  
11 stability of the public health infrastructure:

- 12 (1) Identify and provide leadership for the provision of essential public  
13 health services and functions;
- 14 (2) Develop management standards for the public health system and  
15 workforce that are tied to improvements in public health outcomes or  
16 other measures;
- 17 (3) Develop and provide effective training for members of the public  
18 health workforce that is focused on performance-based standards;
- 19 (4) Evaluate performance management standards and training efforts  
20 within the public health system; and
- 21 (5) Comprehensively plan and set priorities for the efficient and effective  
22 accomplishment of essential public health services and functions.

23 (b) In performing the duties set forth in subsection (a) of this section, State and  
24 local public health agencies and their public and private sector partners shall consult  
25 with and utilize national guidelines, initiatives, programs, and recommendations relating  
26 to improvements in public health infrastructure that are consistent with accomplishing  
27 the mission of public health in the State.

28 **"§ 130A-2.5. Public health workforce.**

29 (a) The State public health agency shall manage the public health workforce  
30 performance related to public health infrastructure and capacity, processes, and  
31 outcomes at the State and local levels. The State public health agency shall establish and  
32 implement performance standards, measures, and processes for quality or performance  
33 improvement that are accessible, affordable, and nonpunitive. These include the  
34 following:

- 35 (1) Performance measurement standards for the public health system. –  
36 Consistent with the National Public Health Performance Standards  
37 Program, the State public health agency shall adopt and administer  
38 performance measurements within the public health system as a means  
39 of improving the quality of State and local public health practice and  
40 improving system accountability.
- 41 (2) Accreditation of local public health agencies. – The State public health  
42 agency shall adopt and administer a mandatory accreditation program  
43 for local public health agencies. The accreditation program shall be  
44 based on criteria developed by the State public health agency that

1 focus on the ability of agencies to provide essential public health  
2 services and functions.

3 (3) Certification or credentialing for the public health workforce. –  
4 Consistent with any national system of public health workforce  
5 certification or credentialing, the State public health agency shall adopt  
6 and administer public health workforce certification or credentialing  
7 programs for members of the public health workforce. These programs  
8 shall be designed to develop knowledge, skills, and abilities in relevant  
9 and contemporary public health practice areas and must be based on:

10 a. Basic, core, or technical competencies for public health  
11 workers; or

12 b. Professional codes for public health professionals.

13 (b) The State public health agency shall, directly or in conjunction with  
14 educational institutions or others within the public health system, make available or  
15 assure effective programs, continuing education, or other tools for training public health  
16 agents and others within the public health workforce.

17 (c) The State public health agency may require individuals within the public  
18 health system to meet minimal training requirements to assist the individual in  
19 providing essential public health services and functions.

20 (d) The State public health agency may provide incentives to meet performance  
21 management or training requirements, including:

22 (1) Organizational accountability awards.

23 (2) Accreditation recognition for public health agencies or their  
24 contractors or volunteers.

25 (3) Certification or credentialing titles or recognition for individuals.

26 (4) Other career development initiatives, including financial benefits.

27 (e) The State public health agency shall:

28 (1) Adopt a framework for the evaluation of the performance of the local  
29 public health agency workforce.

30 (2) Develop standards to consistently evaluate the effectiveness and  
31 delivery of training programs, continuation education, and other tools.

32 (3) Consistently evaluate performance management and training  
33 programs, continuing education, and other tools pursuant to these  
34 frameworks or standards.

35 **"§ 130A-2.6. Comprehensive public health plan.**

36 (a) The State public health agency shall develop a comprehensive public health  
37 plan ("Plan") that assesses and sets priorities for the State public health system. The  
38 State public health agency shall develop the Plan in consultation with representatives  
39 from its public and private sector partners and in consideration of local public health  
40 plans submitted in accordance with G.S. 130A-2.7. The Plan may rely on existing or  
41 available surveillance data or other formation available to the State public health  
42 agency, as well as national guidelines or recommendations concerning public health  
43 outcomes and improvements. The Plan shall cover five years and shall be reviewed

1 annually. Future Plans shall be developed every five years. The Plan shall include the  
2 following:

- 3 (1) Identification and quantification of existing public health problems,  
4 disparities, or threats at the State and local levels.
- 5 (2) Identification of areas needing greater resource allocation to  
6 effectively combat public health threats or decrease disparities in the  
7 provision of essential public health services and functions.
- 8 (3) Goals for targeting essential public health services and functions to  
9 address prioritized public health problems, disparities, or threats  
10 through program development, implementation, and evaluation and  
11 specific recommendations, strategies, and schedules for meeting these  
12 goals.
- 13 (4) Identification of specific at-risk populations targeted, including criteria  
14 for identifying targeted populations.
- 15 (5) Goals for increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of the public  
16 health system and specific recommendations, strategies and schedules  
17 for meeting these goals.
- 18 (6) Strategies for coordinating service delivery within the public health  
19 system.
- 20 (7) Measurable indicators of effectiveness and success.
- 21 (8) Identification of public and private sector partners.

22 (b) The State public health agency shall submit a copy of the comprehensive  
23 State public health plan required under this section annually to the Governor and the  
24 General Assembly upon its convening or reconvening, including any recommendations  
25 for legislative amendments.

26 **"§ 130A-2.7. Local public health plans.**

27 (a) Every county, through its local public health agency, shall provide for the  
28 development, review, and approval of a local public health plan consistent with the  
29 comprehensive State public health plan required under G.S. 130A-5.4. The local public  
30 health plan shall address how the local public health agency will coordinate with the  
31 State public health agency and others within the public health system to accomplish  
32 goal and priorities identified in the comprehensive State public health plan. The local  
33 public health plan shall cover five years and shall be reviewed annually. Future plans  
34 shall be developed every five years. In addition to the items listed in G.S. 130A-5.4, the  
35 local public health plan shall include the following:

- 36 (1) Description of the demographics and health indicators of the  
37 population being served by the local public health agency.
- 38 (2) Description of the numbers and types of professionals in the local  
39 public health workforce.
- 40 (3) Description of the local public health workforce training needs.
- 41 (4) Description of how the local public health agency is accountable to the  
42 public in ensuring the provision of essential public health services and  
43 functions.



- 1           (5) Description of how the local public health agency provides the  
2           necessary leadership to ensure that public health services are managed,  
3           monitored, and are of the highest quality possible.  
4           (6) Description of how the local public health agency manages its finances  
5           and accounts for expenditures of State, local, and all other sources of  
6           revenue.  
7           (7) Identification of public and private sector partners.  
8           (8) Other matters determined by the Secretary to be necessary to  
9           effectively and efficiently provide essential public health services and  
10          functions by a local public health agency.

11          (b) The local public health plan shall be approved and submitted to the Secretary  
12          no later than July 1, 2004.

13          (c) The State public health agency shall provide technical assistance to local  
14          public health agencies that request assistance and shall otherwise work with local public  
15          health agencies to generate the plan."

16                 **SECTION 4.** G.S. 130A-5 reads as rewritten:

17         **"§ 130A-5. Duties of the Secretary.**

18                 The Secretary shall have the authority:

- 19                 (1) To enforce the State health laws and the rules of the Commission;  
20                 (2) To investigate the causes of epidemics and of infectious,  
21                 communicable and other diseases affecting the public health in order  
22                 to control and prevent these diseases; to provide, under the rules of the  
23                 Commission, for the prevention, detection, reporting and control of  
24                 communicable, infectious or any other diseases or health hazards  
25                 considered harmful to the public health; to obtain, notwithstanding the  
26                 provisions of G.S. 8-53, a copy or a summary of pertinent portions of  
27                 privileged patient medical records deemed necessary for investigating  
28                 a disease or health hazard that may present a clear danger to the public  
29                 health. Records shall be identified as necessary by joint agreement of a  
30                 Department physician and the patient's attending physician. However,  
31                 if the Department is unable to contact the attending physician after  
32                 reasonable attempts to do so, or if the Department determines that  
33                 contacting all attending physicians of patients involved in an  
34                 investigation would be impractical or would unreasonably delay the  
35                 inquiry and thereby endanger the public health, the records shall be  
36                 identified as necessary by joint agreement of a Department physician  
37                 and the health care facility's chief of staff. For a facility with no chief  
38                 of staff, the facility's chief administrator may consent to the  
39                 Department's review of the records. Any person, authorized to have or  
40                 handle such records, providing copies or summaries of privileged  
41                 patient medical records pursuant to this subdivision shall be immune  
42                 from civil or criminal liability that might otherwise be incurred or  
43                 imposed based upon invasion of privacy or breach of physician-patient  
44                 confidentiality arising out of the furnishing of or agreement to furnish;

- 1           (3)    To develop and carry out ~~reasonable health programs that may be~~  
2            ~~necessary for the protection and promotion of the public health and the~~  
3            ~~control of diseases.~~ the comprehensive State public health plan  
4            pursuant to G.S. 130A-33-58. The Commission is authorized to adopt  
5            rules to carry out ~~these programs.~~ the Plan.
- 6           (4)    To make sanitary and health investigations and inspections;
- 7           (5)    To investigate occupational health hazards and occupational diseases  
8            and to make recommendations for the elimination of the hazards and  
9            diseases. The Secretary shall work with the Industrial Commission and  
10           shall file sufficient reports with the Industrial Commission to enable it  
11           to carry out all of the provisions of the Workers' Compensation Act  
12           with respect to occupational disease.
- 13          (6)    To receive donations of money, securities, equipment, supplies, realty  
14           or any other property of any kind or description which shall be used by  
15           the Department for the purpose of carrying out its public health  
16           programs;
- 17          (7)    To acquire by purchase, devise or otherwise in the name of the  
18           Department equipment, supplies and other property, real or personal,  
19           necessary to carry out the public health programs;
- 20          (8)    To use the official seal of the Department. Copies of documents in the  
21           possession of the Department may be authenticated with the seal of the  
22           Department, attested by the signature or a facsimile of the signature of  
23           the Secretary, and when authenticated shall have the same evidentiary  
24           value as the originals;
- 25          (9)    To disseminate information to the general public on all matters  
26           pertaining to public health; to purchase, print, publish, and distribute  
27           free, or at cost, documents, reports, bulletins and health informational  
28           materials. Money collected from the distribution of these materials  
29           shall remain in the Department to be used to replace the materials;
- 30          (10)   To be the health advisor of the State and to advise State officials in  
31           regard to the location, sanitary construction and health management of  
32           all State institutions; to direct the attention of the State to health  
33           matters which affect the industries, property, health and lives of the  
34           people of the State; to inspect at least annually State institutions and  
35           facilities; to make a report as to the health conditions of these  
36           institutions or facilities with suggestions and recommendations to the  
37           appropriate State agencies. It shall be the duty of the persons in  
38           immediate charge of these institutions or facilities to furnish all  
39           assistance necessary for a thorough inspection;
- 40          (11)   To establish a schedule of fees based on income to be paid by a  
41           recipient for services provided by Migrant Health Clinics and  
42           Development Evaluation Centers;

- 1 (12) To establish fees for the sale of specimen containers, vaccines and  
2 other biologicals. The fees shall not exceed the actual cost of such  
3 items, plus transportation costs;
- 4 (13) To establish a fee to cover costs of responding to requests by  
5 employers for industrial hygiene consultation services and  
6 occupational consultation services. The fee shall not exceed two  
7 hundred dollars (\$200.00) per on site inspection; ~~and~~
- 8 (14) To establish a fee for companion animal certificate of examination  
9 forms to be distributed, upon request, by the Department to licensed  
10 veterinarians. The fee shall not exceed the cost of the form and  
11 shipping ~~costs~~ costs;
- 12 (15) Conduct performance management and training programs and  
13 evaluations to improve the public health system and workforce; and
- 14 (16) Systematically review, on at least an annual basis, the public health  
15 system to recommend modifications in its structure or other features to  
16 improve public health outcomes."

17 **SECTION 5.** The Department of Health and Human Services shall do the  
18 following to prepare for the development and implementation of the comprehensive  
19 State public health plan and the local public health plans:

- 20 (1) Develop the State comprehensive public health plan in accordance  
21 with G.S. 130A-5.2 not later than January 1, 2005.
- 22 (2) Review all rules currently in effect and adopted by the Commission for  
23 Health Services and the Secretary and identify rules that are  
24 inconsistent with this act.
- 25 (3) Review all oversight and monitoring functions currently implemented  
26 by the Department with respect to the public health system to  
27 determine the effectiveness of the activities on achieving the intent of  
28 the act; and improve the oversight and monitoring functions and  
29 activities, if necessary; identify areas where additional training is  
30 needed and provide it.
- 31 (4) Develop service standards, outcomes, and financing strategies  
32 necessary to implement this act.
- 33 (5) Develop format and required content for local public health plans.
- 34 (6) Develop a method for Departmental evaluation of local public health  
35 plans.
- 36 (7) Develop contractual agreements for the provision of technical  
37 assistance by the Department to local public health agencies in the  
38 development of local public health plans.
- 39 (8) Report to the Joint Legislative Health Care Oversight Committee on  
40 the Department's readiness to implement public health infrastructure  
41 reform no later than October 1, 2003.
- 42 (9) Develop a consolidation plan that will result in no less than 10 and no  
43 more than 20 local public health agencies by January 1, 2005.

1           **SECTION 6.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the  
2 Department of Health and Human Services the sum of one million dollars (\$1,000,000)  
3 for the 2003-2004 fiscal year. These funds shall be used to create incentives for counties  
4 to consolidate public health services into multicounty district health departments.

5           **SECTION 7.** Section 6 of this act becomes effective July 1, 2003. The  
6 remainder of this act is effective when it becomes law.