

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2005**

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**SENATE BILL 1161*
Health Care Committee Substitute Adopted 5/26/05**

Short Title: Central Registry/MH Beds/Invol. Comm.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 24, 2005

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN
2 SERVICES TO DEVELOP A CENTRAL REGISTRY OF AVAILABLE BEDS IN
3 MENTAL HEALTH FACILITIES TO ASSIST IN THE PLACEMENT OF
4 INDIVIDUALS INVOLUNTARILY COMMITTED TO THE FACILITIES.
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6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 **SECTION 1.** The Department of Health and Human Services, Division of
8 Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services, shall
9 develop a central call registry to assist law enforcement officers and others in
10 identifying available beds in mental health facilities for placement of individuals to be
11 involuntarily committed to the facilities. The registry may be automated and shall be
12 available for access by law enforcement officers at all times. In developing the registry,
13 the Department shall ensure that information on beds available in mental health
14 facilities that house involuntarily committed persons is transmitted to the registry and
15 updated daily. The registry shall be implemented not later than January 1, 2006. The
16 Department shall report on the implementation of the registry to the Senate
17 Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services, the House of
18 Representatives Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services, and the
19 Fiscal Research Division not later than October 1, 2005, and again on March 1, 2006.

20 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 122C-141 is amended by adding the following new
21 subsection to read:

22 "(a1) The area authority, county programs, or persons covered under
23 G.S. 122C-142, to the extent of their involvement with the placement of individuals
24 involuntarily committed to mental health facilities, shall be responsible for utilizing a
25 central registry of available beds in mental health facilities as developed by the
26 Department."

27 **SECTION 3.** Section 2 of this act becomes effective January 1, 2006. The
28 remainder of this act becomes effective July 1, 2005.