

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2015**

S

1

SENATE BILL 490

Short Title: Increase Access to MH Services. (Public)

Sponsors: Senator Barefoot (Primary Sponsor).

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate.

March 26, 2015

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT DIRECTING THE LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH COMMISSION TO STUDY A
2 PUBLIC-PRIVATE HOSPITAL PARTNERSHIP TO INCREASE ACCESS TO
3 MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES; AND ALLOWING STATE-OPERATED HOSPITALS
4 TO TRANSFER BEDS TO PRIVATE, RURAL HOSPITALS WITHOUT CERTIFICATE
5 OF NEED REVIEW IN ORDER TO INCREASE ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH
6 SERVICES.
7

8 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

9 **SECTION 1.(a)** The Legislative Research Commission (LRC) shall study the
10 feasibility and effectiveness of establishing a partnership between State-operated hospitals and
11 private, underutilized rural hospitals for the purpose of increasing access to services for the
12 diagnosis and treatment of individuals with mental illness.

13 **SECTION 1.(b)** The LRC shall report its findings, together with any recommended
14 legislation, to the 2016 Regular Session of the 2015 General Assembly upon its convening.

15 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 131E-176(16)c. reads as rewritten:

16 "(16) "New institutional health services" means any of the following:

17 ...

18 c. Any change in bed capacity as defined in
19 G.S. 131E-176(5), G.S. 131E-176(5), except for a change in bed
20 capacity that results from the transfer of beds from a State-operated
21 hospital to a private, rural hospital for the purpose of providing
22 services for the diagnosis and treatment of individuals with mental
23 illness.

24"

25 **SECTION 3.** Section 1 of this act is effective when this act becomes law. Section 2
26 of this act becomes effective October 1, 2015, and applies to changes in bed capacity occurring
27 on or after that date.

