

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

EXTRA SESSION 1994

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SENATE BILL 38*

Select Committee on Juveniles/Prevention Committee Substitute Adopted 2/23/94

Short Title: Children, Youth, Families.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to: Appropriations.

February 9, 1994

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO CREATE THE GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON CHILDREN, YOUTH,
AND FAMILIES, TO CREATE COUNTY COUNCILS ON CHILDREN, YOUTH,
AND FAMILIES, AND TO MAKE AN APPROPRIATION.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1. Article 3 of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new Part to read:

"PART 5A. COUNCILS ON CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES.

"§ 143B-152.1. Intent.

It is the intent of the General Assembly to (i) promote and encourage collaboration and collaborative planning and delivery of services among agencies that serve the needs of children, youth, and families, (ii) make more effective use of existing federal, State, and local resources and programs for children, youth, and families, (iii) streamline the delivery of services and eliminate duplication of services for children, youth, and families, and (iv) promote and enhance State-level leadership in achieving these goals.

"§ 143B-152.2. Governor's Council on Children, Youth, and Families; creation; meetings.

(a) There is created a Governor's Council on Children, Youth, and Families in the Department of Human Resources for budgetary and staffing purposes only. The Department of Human Resources shall provide staff and clerical support to the Council, but the Council shall exercise its statutory powers and duties independently of the Department.

(b) The Council shall consist of the following members:

- 1 (1) One representative of the Office of the Governor, appointed by the
2 Governor;
- 3 (2) The Superintendent of Public Instruction;
- 4 (3) The Secretary of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources;
- 5 (4) The Secretary of Human Resources; and
- 6 (5) The Chair of the State Board of Education.

7 The Governor may appoint any other representatives of State, local, or private
8 entities that provide services and programs for children, youth, and families, and other
9 interested individuals, such as low-income parents, parents of children with special
10 needs, representatives of business and industry, and representatives of County Councils
11 established under this Part, to serve on this Council. The Governor shall appoint or
12 serve as the Chair of the Council.

13 (c) The Governor shall convene the Council within 60 days of the effective date
14 of this Part. Thereafter, the Council shall meet at least biannually upon the call of the
15 Chair of the Council.

16 (d) The Governor shall set the agenda for the Council's first meeting; the Chair,
17 upon consultation with the Governor, shall set the agenda for subsequent meetings. The
18 Governor shall consider the Council's reports in setting State policy for children, youth,
19 and families.

20 **"§ 143B-152.3. Powers and duties of the Council.**

21 (a) The Council shall:

- 22 (1) Provide State-level leadership on issues affecting children and youth,
23 including children with special needs, and their families;
- 24 (2) Foster collaboration and coordination between and among the many
25 State agencies with responsibility for providing services to children,
26 youth, and families;
- 27 (3) Help develop and carry out a unified and comprehensive long-range
28 agenda for children, youth, and families;
- 29 (4) Promote accountability for achieving the State's goals in a timely and
30 effective manner by establishing strategies for evaluating programs
31 affecting children, youth, and families;
- 32 (5) Advise the Governor upon any other matter that the Governor may
33 refer to the Council; and
- 34 (6) Report biannually to the Governor and annually to the General
35 Assembly on its progress in meeting the intent and purpose of this
36 Part.

37 (b) In carrying out its duties, the Council may:

- 38 (1) Develop a strategic plan for the development, coordination, and
39 implementation of services and programs for children, youth, and
40 families. This plan should:
 - 41 a. Include a system to evaluate the success of existing and new
42 services and programs;
 - 43 b. Consider services and programs that are provided by nonpublic
44 agencies; and

- 1 c. Consider the establishment of a single portal of entry at the
2 local level for the delivery of services by public agencies to
3 children, youth, and families.
- 4 (2) Prepare a State-level cooperative agreement among primary State
5 agencies involved with providing services to children, youth, and
6 families. This agreement should address staffing, technical assistance,
7 and other needs of local entities in their development of Family
8 Resource Centers and Support Our Students Centers.
- 9 (3) Identify federal, State, local, and private funds and other support for
10 services and programs for children, youth, and families.
- 11 (4) Review the programs of all State agencies that provide services to
12 children, youth, and families and advise the Governor, Secretary of
13 Human Resources, Secretary of Environment, Health, and Natural
14 Resources, Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the Chair of the
15 State Board of Education on the coordination of programs to prevent
16 duplication and overlapping of these services.
- 17 (5) Develop recommendations with regard to laws, rules, and policies so
18 as to improve the effective and efficient delivery of services through
19 individual agencies and through collaboration among agencies. In
20 particular, the Council should evaluate laws, rules, and policies related
21 to confidentiality of records so as to make recommendations to remove
22 barriers to interagency exchange of information.
- 23 (6) Serve as the agency through which various public and nonpublic
24 organizations concerned with children, youth, and families can
25 exchange information, coordinate programs, and be helped to engage
26 in joint endeavors.
- 27 (7) Consider the reports of the Community Councils in its deliberations
28 and recommendations.
- 29 (c) The Chair may establish any standing, ad hoc, or interagency committees and
30 task forces as may be necessary to carry out the functions of the Council and may
31 appoint Council members or other individuals to serve on these committees and task
32 forces.
- 33 (d) The Council shall establish a Grant Review Committee that shall:
- 34 (1) Receive and review applications for grants to establish Support Our
35 Students Centers under Part 8 of Article 16 of Chapter 115C of the
36 General Statutes and to establish Family Resource Centers under Part
37 5B of Article 3 of Chapter 143B of the General Statutes;
- 38 (2) Develop a system for submitting applications and awarding grants for
39 these centers;
- 40 (3) Make recommendations on grant awards for Support Our Students
41 Centers to the State Board of Education based on the criteria
42 established in Part 8 of Article 16 of Chapter 115C of the General
43 Statutes; and

1 (4) Make recommendations on grant awards for Family Resource Centers
2 to the Secretary of Human Resources based on the criteria established
3 in Part 5B of Article 3 of Chapter 143B of the General Statutes.

4 (e) All appropriate agencies, including the Department of Human Resources, the
5 Department of Public Instruction, the State Board of Education, the Department of
6 Environment, Health, and Natural Resources, the Administrative Office of the Courts,
7 and other public and private providers of services for children, youth, and families shall
8 cooperate with the Council in carrying out its mandate.

9 "**§ 143B-152.4. County Councils on Children, Youth, and Families; creation;**
10 **meetings.**

11 (a) Each county may establish a County Council on Children, Youth, and
12 Families.

13 (b) Each County Council shall consist of the following members who shall be
14 generally reflective of the racial and socioeconomic diversity of the county:

15 (1) The superintendent of each local school administrative unit located in
16 the county.

17 (2) The director of the county department of social services.

18 (3) The director of the county department of public health.

19 (4) A local mental health professional, appointed by the director of the
20 area authority established under Chapter 122C of the General Statutes.

21 (5) The local board of education of each local school administrative unit
22 located in the county shall appoint one member of the board of
23 education, one teacher who teaches children in any of the grades
24 between kindergarten through ninth grade, and one public school
25 social worker or other student support personnel.

26 (6) The board of county commissioners shall appoint one commissioner,
27 one representative of the public library, and one local law enforcement
28 officer.

29 (7) The county manager.

30 (8) The Chief District Court Judge shall appoint one District Court Judge
31 with expertise relating to the juvenile justice system.

32 (9) The President of the Community College that serves the county, or the
33 President's designee.

34 At the initial meeting of the County Council, the Council shall appoint one
35 representative of business and industry, one representative of a nonprofit organization
36 that provides services to children, youth, and families, and one representative from a
37 county religious organization. The Council shall appoint a maximum of three parents of
38 children who are eligible to be served by programs coordinated by any Neighborhood
39 Councils as they are established. These parents also should be members of the
40 Neighborhood Council of the program that serves their children.

41 A County Council may appoint any other representatives of local public, private, or
42 nonprofit agencies that provide services and programs for children, youth, and families
43 in the county, and other interested individuals, such as low-income parents, parents of
44 children with special needs, and representatives of business and industry, to serve as

1 members of the County Council. The Council shall elect a chair from its membership.
2 Vacancies on a County Council shall be filled by the original appointing authority.

3 A multidisciplinary or interagency committee, team, task force, or other entity that
4 currently exists within the county to address issues affecting children, youth, and
5 families may serve as the basis of the County Council. In this case, the appointing
6 authorities shall add additional members from the entities required to be represented by
7 this subsection.

8 (c) The chair of the board of county commissioners and the chair of the board of
9 education of each local school administrative unit in the county shall jointly call the first
10 meeting and set the agenda for that meeting. Thereafter, the County Council shall meet
11 at least quarterly upon the call of its chair, and the chair shall set the agendas for
12 subsequent meetings.

13 **"§ 143B-152.5. Powers and duties of County Councils.**

14 (a) A County Council shall:

- 15 (1) Provide local-level leadership on issues affecting children and youth,
16 including children with special needs, and their families;
- 17 (2) Foster collaboration and coordination between and among the many
18 local agencies with responsibility for providing services to children,
19 youth, and families;
- 20 (3) Help develop and carry out a unified and comprehensive long-range
21 agenda for children, youth, and families;
- 22 (4) Promote accountability for achieving these goals in a timely and
23 effective manner by establishing strategies for evaluating programs
24 that serve children, youth, and families;
- 25 (5) Identify sources of fiscal and other support for services and programs
26 for children, youth, and families in the county;
- 27 (6) Develop a system for selecting sites for Family Resource Centers and
28 Support Our Students Centers, for assisting Neighborhood Councils in
29 applying for grants to establish these centers, and for assisting in the
30 monitoring of the ongoing operations of these centers as they are
31 established;
- 32 (7) Apply for incorporation no later than one year after formation of the
33 Council; and
- 34 (8) Report annually to the Governor's Council on Children, Youth, and
35 Families on its progress in meeting the intent and purpose of this Part.

36 (b) In carrying out its duties, a County Council may:

- 37 (1) Develop a strategic plan for the development, coordination, and
38 implementation of services and programs for children, youth, and
39 families in the county. This plan should:
 - 40 a. Include a system to evaluate the success of existing and new
41 services and programs; and
 - 42 b. Consider services and programs for children, youth, and
43 families that are provided by local private or nonprofit agencies.

1 (2) Prepare a local-level cooperative agreement among primary local
2 public agencies involved with providing services to children, youth,
3 and families in the county. This agreement should address staffing,
4 technical assistance, and other needs of Family Resource Centers and
5 Support Our Students Centers.

6 (3) Develop recommendations concerning laws, rules, and policies so as to
7 improve the effective and efficient delivery of services through
8 individual agencies and through collaboration among agencies.

9 (4) Serve as the local agency through which various public and nonpublic
10 organizations concerned with children, youth, and families can
11 exchange information, coordinate programs, and be helped to engage
12 in joint endeavors.

13 (c) A County Council may establish any standing, ad hoc, and interagency
14 committees and task forces as may be necessary to carry out the functions of the
15 Council and may appoint Council members or other individuals to serve on these
16 committees and task forces.

17 (d) All appropriate agencies and other providers of services for children, youth,
18 and families in the county shall cooperate with the County Council in carrying out its
19 mandate."

20 Sec. 2. The Governor's Council for Children, Youth, and Families shall
21 develop procedures to evaluate the Family Resource Center Grant Program established
22 under Part 5B of Article 3 of Chapter 143B of the General Statutes and the Support Our
23 Students Program established under Part 8 of Article 16 of Chapter 115C of the General
24 Statutes. The Council may contract with a constituent institution of The University of
25 North Carolina or with a nonprofit agency to carry out the evaluation, which shall
26 include a short-term program evaluation and a system to measure and analyze long-term
27 program goals and outcomes. The Council shall report to the General Assembly by
28 December 31, 1995, on the results of this evaluation.

29 Sec. 3. The Governor's Council on Children, Youth, and Families shall file
30 its initial report to the General Assembly under G.S. 143B-152.3(10) no later than
31 December 31, 1994, and annually thereafter.

32 Sec. 4. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
33 Human Resources the sum of one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) for the
34 1994-95 fiscal year to carry out the evaluation in Section 2 of this act.

35 Sec. 5. Section 4 of this act becomes effective July 1, 1994. The remainder
36 of the act is effective upon ratification.