

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2003**

H

D

HOUSE DRH30015-SWz-5A* (1/14)

Short Title: Expand Special Assistance Demo Project. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Insko, Earle, and Dickson.

Referred to:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO EXPAND THE STATE/COUNTY SPECIAL ASSISTANCE IN-HOME
DEMONSTRATION PROJECT BY PERMITTING THE DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF
INDIVIDUALS WHO MAY BE ENROLLED IN THE PROJECT.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1.(a) The Department of Health and Human Services may use funds from the existing State/County Special Assistance for Adults budget to provide Special Assistance payments to eligible individuals in in-home living arrangements. These payments may be made for up to a two-year period beginning July 1, 2003, and ending June 30, 2005. The standard monthly payment to individuals enrolled in the Special Assistance demonstration project shall be fifty percent (50%) of the monthly payment the individual would receive if the individual resided in an adult care home and qualified for Special Assistance, except if a lesser payment amount is appropriate for the individual as determined by the local case manager. The Department shall implement Special Assistance in-home eligibility policies and procedures to assure that demonstration project participants are those individuals who need and, but for the demonstration project, would seek placement in an adult care home facility. The Department shall make this demonstration project available to all counties on a voluntary basis. To the maximum extent possible, the Department shall consider geographic balance in the dispersion of payments to individuals across the State. The Department shall make an interim report to the cochairs of the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee, the cochairs of the House of Representatives Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services, the cochairs of the Senate Appropriations Committee, and the Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee on Human Resources by June 30, 2004, and a final report by January 1, 2005. The final

1 report shall also be sent to the North Carolina Study Commission on Aging. This report
2 shall include the following information:

- 3 (1) A description of cost savings that could occur by allowing individuals
4 eligible for State/County Special Assistance the option of remaining in
5 the home.
- 6 (2) Which activities of daily living or other need criteria are reliable
7 indicators for identifying individuals with the greatest need for income
8 supplements for in-home living arrangements.
- 9 (3) How much case management is needed and which types of individuals
10 are most in need of case management.
- 11 (4) The geographic location of individuals receiving payments under this
12 section.
- 13 (5) A description of the services purchased with these payments.
- 14 (6) A description of the income levels of individuals who receive
15 payments under this section and the impact on the Medicaid program.
- 16 (7) Findings and recommendations as to the feasibility of continuing or
17 expanding the demonstration program.
- 18 (8) The level and quantity of services (including personal care services)
19 provided to the demonstration project participants compared to the
20 level and quantity of services for residents in adult care homes.
- 21 (9) A fiscal analysis and programmatic results of increasing the
22 demonstration project participant's monthly assistance payment to fifty
23 percent (50%) of the Special Assistance monthly payment.
- 24 (10) A fiscal analysis of the budgetary impact of any increases in staff
25 responsibility resulting from utilization of the Demonstration Program.

26 **SECTION 1.(b)** The Department shall incorporate data collection tools
27 designed to compare quality of life among institutionalized vs. noninstitutionalized
28 populations (i.e. an individual's perception of his or her own health and well-being,
29 years of healthy life, and activity limitations). To the extent national standards are
30 available, the Department shall utilize those standards.

31 **SECTION 1.(c)** The Department shall expand its report of the
32 Demonstration Program in order to fully assess the success of the pilot. The Department
33 shall contract with an independent consultant to develop an evaluation design that
34 ensures that the evaluation includes an assessment of the impact of the Program on the
35 economic security, health, and well-being of the participants.

36 **SECTION 2.** The Department of Health and Human Services shall use funds
37 appropriated to it for the 2003 biennium for the Special Assistance payments authorized
38 in Section 1 of this act.

39 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2003.