

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2011**

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SENATE DRS35057-LGz-44 (02/14)

Short Title: Perinatal Quality Care Funds. (Public)

Sponsors: Senator Atwater.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR APPLIED RESEARCH PROJECTS TO
3 REDUCE INFANT MORTALITY AND MORBIDITY IN NORTH CAROLINA, AS
4 RECOMMENDED BY THE CHILD FATALITY TASK FORCE.

5 Whereas, the 2009 infant mortality rate in North Carolina was 7.9 infant deaths per
6 1,000 live births; and

7 Whereas, though the infant mortality rate has declined in the past two decades,
8 North Carolina still ranks 44th among the states; and

9 Whereas, applied research specifically targeted to components of infant mortality,
10 such as prematurity and sudden infant death syndrome, has the potential to reduce infant
11 mortality and morbidity dramatically; and

12 Whereas, the North Carolina Child Fatality Task Force endorses such projects
13 because they also have shown a more than 300% return on investment; Now, therefore,
14 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

15 **SECTION 1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
16 Health and Human Services, Office of Rural Health and Community Care, the sum of five
17 hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) for the 2011-2012 fiscal year and the sum of five hundred
18 thousand dollars (\$500,000) for the 2012-2013 fiscal year to be allocated to the Perinatal
19 Quality Care Initiative of North Carolina (PQCNC) at the University of North Carolina at
20 Chapel Hill School of Medicine to fund applied research projects to help reduce infant
21 mortality and morbidity in the State.

22 **SECTION 2.** In conjunction with the Office of Rural Health and Community Care,
23 Community Care of North Carolina and in support of the Division of Medical Assistance's
24 Pregnancy Home Initiative, PQCNC shall adopt annual plans of work that include applied
25 research projects with health care providers and hospitals aimed at reducing infant mortality
26 and morbidity across the State. PQCNC shall submit to the Office of Rural Health and
27 Community Care and the General Assembly progress reports on each project, including
28 outcomes and estimations of returns on investment.

29 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2011.

