

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2011

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SENATE BILL 552
Health Care Committee Substitute Adopted 6/6/11

Short Title: Incentive Program for Public Health Improv.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

April 12, 2011

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO PROMOTE EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS IN THE PUBLIC HEALTH
3 SYSTEM BY ESTABLISHING A PUBLIC HEALTH IMPROVEMENT INCENTIVE
4 PROGRAM, STRENGTHENING LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE,
5 AND ASSURING THE PROVISION OF THE TEN ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH
6 SERVICES.

7 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

8 **SECTION 1.** Article 2 of Chapter 130A of the General Statutes is amended by
9 adding the following new sections to read:

10 **"§ 130A-34.2. Incentive program for public health improvement.**

11 (a) In order to promote efficiency and effectiveness of the public health delivery
12 system, the Department shall establish a Public Health Improvement Incentive Program. The
13 Program shall provide monetary incentives for the creation and expansion of multicounty local
14 health departments serving a population of not less than 100,000.

15 (b) The Commission shall adopt rules to implement the Public Health Improvement
16 Incentive Program.

17 **"§ 130A-34.3. Strengthening local public health infrastructure.**

18 (a) By July 1, 2014, in order for a local health department to be eligible to receive State
19 and federal public health funding from the Division of Public Health, the following criteria
20 shall be met:

21 (1) A local health department shall:

22 a. Obtain and maintain accreditation pursuant to G.S. 130A-34.1.

23 b. Have a service area that comprises a population of 100,000 or more.

24 c. Be organized as a (i) single-county or multicounty public health
25 authority created pursuant to G.S. 130A-45.02, (ii) a district health
26 department created pursuant to G.S. 130A-36, or (iii) a consolidated
27 human services agency created prior to January 1, 2011, pursuant to
28 G.S. 153A-77.

29 (2) The county or counties comprising the local health department shall
30 maintain appropriations to local health departments from local ad valorem
31 tax receipts at levels equal to amounts appropriated in State fiscal year
32 2010-2011 or fifteen dollars (\$15.00) per capita, whichever is greater.

33 (b) The criteria established in subsection (a) of this section shall be in addition to any
34 other funding criteria established by State or federal law.

35 (c) Upon request of a local health department and for good cause shown the State
36 Health Director may grant exceptions to population requirements contained in sub-subdivision
37 (a)(1)b. of this section."



1 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 130A-1.1(b) is rewritten to read:

2 "(b) A local health department shall assure that the following 10 essential public health
3 services are available and accessible to the population in each county served by the local health
4 department:

- 5 (1) Monitoring health status to identify community health problems.
- 6 (2) Diagnosing and investigating health hazards in the community.
- 7 (3) Informing, educating, and empowering people about health issues.
- 8 (4) Mobilizing community partnerships to identify and solve health problems.
- 9 (5) Developing policies and plans that support individual and community health
10 efforts.
- 11 (6) Enforcing laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety.
- 12 (7) Linking people to needed personal health care services and assuring the
13 provision of health care when otherwise unavailable.
- 14 (8) Assuring a competent public health workforce and personal health care
15 workforce.
- 16 (9) Evaluating effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and
17 population-based health services.
- 18 (10) Conducting research.

19 ~~As used in this section, the term "essential public health services" means those services that~~
20 ~~the State shall ensure because they are essential to promoting and contributing to the highest~~
21 ~~level of health possible for the citizens of North Carolina. The Departments of Environment~~
22 ~~and Natural Resources and Health and Human Services shall attempt to ensure within the~~
23 ~~resources available to them that the following essential public health services are available and~~
24 ~~accessible to all citizens of the State, and shall account for the financing of these services:~~

25 ~~(1) Health Support:~~

- 26 ~~a. Assessment of health status, health needs, and environmental risks to~~
27 ~~health;~~
- 28 ~~b. Patient and community education;~~
- 29 ~~c. Public health laboratory;~~
- 30 ~~d. Registration of vital events;~~
- 31 ~~e. Quality improvement; and~~

32 ~~(2) Environmental Health:~~

- 33 ~~a. Lodging and institutional sanitation;~~
- 34 ~~b. On-site domestic sewage disposal;~~
- 35 ~~c. Water and food safety and sanitation; and~~

36 ~~(3) Personal Health:~~

- 37 ~~a. Child health;~~
- 38 ~~b. Chronic disease control;~~
- 39 ~~c. Communicable disease control;~~
- 40 ~~d. Dental public health;~~
- 41 ~~e. Family planning;~~
- 42 ~~f. Health promotion and risk reduction;~~
- 43 ~~g. Maternal health; and~~

44 ~~(4) Public Health Preparedness.~~

45 ~~The Commission for Public Health shall determine specific services to be provided under~~
46 ~~each of the essential public health services categories listed above."~~

47 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Health and Human Services shall allocate, from
48 funds appropriated, the sum of five million dollars (\$5,000,000) to the Division of Public
49 Health to provide incentives to local health departments through the Public Health
50 Improvement Incentive Program.

1 **SECTION 4.** The Program Evaluation Division of the General Assembly shall
2 study the feasibility of the transfer of all functions, powers, duties, and obligations vested in the
3 Division of Public Health in the Department of Health and Human Services to the University of
4 North Carolina Healthcare System and submit its findings and recommendations to the Joint
5 Legislative Program Evaluation Oversight Committee and the Joint Legislative Oversight
6 Committee on Health and Human Services no later than February 1, 2012.

7 **SECTION 5.** Section 3 of this act becomes effective July 1, 2011. The remainder
8 of this act is effective when it becomes law.