

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2023

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SENATE BILL DRS15211-MGa-87

Short Title: Protect Moms Who Serve.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senators Applewhite and Smith (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT DIRECTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, IN
3 CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS
4 AFFAIRS, TO STUDY HEALTH ISSUES AFFECTING WOMEN WHO SERVE IN THE
5 MILITARY.

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 **SECTION 1.(a)** The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) shall study
8 the following issues affecting women who serve in the military:

- 9 (1) Coordinating effectively between veterans health care facilities and
10 non-veterans health care facilities in the delivery of maternity care and other
11 health care services.
12 (2) Facilitating access to community resources to address social determinants of
13 health, including housing, nutrition, and employment status.
14 (3) Identifying mental and behavioral health risk factors in the prenatal and
15 postpartum periods and ensuring that pregnant and postpartum veterans get
16 the treatments they need.
17 (4) Facilitating access to childbirth preparation classes, parenting classes,
18 nutrition counseling, breastfeeding support, lactation classes, and breast
19 pumps.
20 (5) Reducing maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity, with a particular
21 focus on racial and ethnic disparities in maternal health outcomes.

22 **SECTION 1.(b)** In conducting the study required by subsection (a) of this section,
23 the Department of Health and Human Services shall solicit feedback from mothers who are
24 currently serving, or who formerly served, in the military. In addition, the DHHS shall consult
25 with the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA), as necessary. The DMVA shall
26 cooperate with the DHHS and provide any assistance or information requested with respect to
27 the study required by subsection (a) of this section.

28 **SECTION 1.(c)** By April 1, 2024, the DHHS shall report its findings, and any
29 recommendations for legislation, to the Senate Health Care Committee, the Joint Legislative
30 Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services, the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee
31 on General Government, and the Fiscal Research Division.

32 **SECTION 2.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
33 Health and Human Services the sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) in nonrecurring
34 funds for the 2023-2024 fiscal year for the purpose of conducting the study described in Section
35 1 of this act.

36 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2023.



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