

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2023

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HOUSE BILL 190
Committee Substitute Favorable 3/14/23
Committee Substitute #2 Favorable 3/28/23
Senate Health Care Committee Substitute Adopted 5/31/23

Short Title: Dept. of Health and Human Services Revisions.-AB

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

February 27, 2023

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT MAKING TECHNICAL, CONFORMING, AND OTHER MODIFICATIONS TO
3 LAWS PERTAINING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5
6 **PART I. LAWS PERTAINING TO THE DIVISION OF AGING AND ADULT**
7 **SERVICES**

8
9 **AUTHORIZATION FOR SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES TO**
10 **ADOPT AND ENFORCE RULES TO IMPLEMENT EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS**
11 **GRANT PROGRAM**

12 **SECTION 1.1.** Article 3 of Chapter 143B of the General Statutes is amended by
13 adding a new section to read:

14 "§ 143B-139.1A. Secretary of Health and Human Services; rules to implement the
15 Emergency Solutions Grant Program.

16 The Secretary of Health and Human Services may adopt rules to implement the Emergency
17 Solutions Grant Program. The Department of Health and Human Services shall enforce any rules
18 adopted under this section."

19
20 **ALIGNMENT OF STATE-COUNTY SPECIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM WITH**
21 **FEDERAL REGULATIONS/REMOVAL OF PROPERTY TAX THRESHOLD WHEN**
22 **DETERMINING ELIGIBILITY**

23 **SECTION 1.2.** G.S. 108A-41 reads as rewritten:

24 "**§ 108A-41. Eligibility.**

25 ...
26 (c) When determining whether a person has insufficient resources to provide a reasonable
27 subsistence compatible with decency and health, there shall be excluded from consideration the
28 person's primary place of residence and the land on which it is situated, and in addition there
29 shall be excluded real property contiguous with the person's primary place of ~~residence in which~~
30 ~~the property tax value is less than twelve thousand dollars (\$12,000).~~ residence.

31"
32

33 **EQUALIZATION OF STATE-COUNTY SPECIAL ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS FOR**
34 **RECIPIENTS RESIDING IN LICENSED FACILITIES APPROVED TO ACCEPT**



1 STATE-COUNTY SPECIAL ASSISTANCE AND RECIPIENTS RESIDING IN
2 IN-HOME LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

3 SECTION 1.3. G.S. 108A-47.1(a) reads as rewritten:

4 "(a) The Department of Health and Human Services ~~may~~shall use funds from the existing
5 State-County Special Assistance budget to provide Special Assistance payments to eligible
6 individuals 18 years of age or older in in-home living arrangements. The standard monthly
7 payment to individuals enrolled in the Special Assistance in-home program shall be one hundred
8 percent (100%) of the monthly payment the individual would receive if the individual resided in
9 an adult care home and qualified for Special Assistance, ~~except if a lesser payment amount is~~
10 ~~appropriate for the individual as determined by the local case manager.~~ Assistance. The
11 Department shall implement Special Assistance in-home eligibility policies and procedures to
12 assure that in-home program participants are those individuals who need and, but for the in-home
13 program, would seek placement in an adult care home facility. The Department's policies and
14 procedures shall include the use of ~~a functional~~an assessment."

15
16 PART II. LAWS PERTAINING TO THE DIVISION OF CENTRAL MANAGEMENT
17 AND SUPPORT

18
19 CONTRACTING REFORM

20 SECTION 2.1. Section 2 of S.L. 2022-52 reads as rewritten:

21 "SECTION 2.(a) Contract Time and Continuity. – In efforts to support the continuity of
22 services provided by ~~nonprofit grantees receiving state and federal funds, a nonprofit grantee~~
23 receiving State or federal funds or any combination of State and federal funds through a financial
24 assistance contract, the Department of Health and Human Services (Department) shall enter into
25 a contract agreement for a minimum of a two-year contract agreement two years with such
26 nonprofit grantees/~~recipients~~ grantee if all of the following requirements are met:

- 27 (1) The nonprofit ~~grantee/recipient~~ grantee is receiving nonrecurring ~~funding~~
28 funds for each year of a fiscal biennium.
29 (2) The nonprofit ~~grantee/recipient~~ grantee is receiving recurring ~~funding funds~~
30 for each year of a fiscal biennium.
31 (3) The nonprofit grantee is receiving any combination of recurring and
32 nonrecurring funds for each year of a fiscal biennium.
33 ~~(3)(4)~~ Multiyear contracts are not otherwise prohibited by the funding source.

34 "SECTION 2.(a1) Nonprofit grantees/recipients Option for Contract Extension. – A
35 nonprofit grantee receiving recurring federal grant ~~funding shall have funds through a financial~~
36 assistance contract has the option to extend the contract for up to one additional year at the end
37 of the contract's initial term of the contract if all of the following requirements are met:

- 38 (1) The extension is mutually agreed upon by the Department and the nonprofit
39 grantee, through a written amendment as provided for in the ~~General Terms~~
40 ~~and Conditions.~~ terms and conditions of the contract.
41 (2) Funding for the contract remains available.

42 "SECTION 2.(a2) Automatic Contract Extension. – The Department shall allow any
43 nonprofit ~~grantee/recipient~~ grantee receiving recurring or nonrecurring ~~state and/or State or~~
44 ~~federal funding funds,~~ or any combination of State and federal funds, through a financial
45 assistance contract for each year of a fiscal biennium to automatically activate a limited-time
46 extensions ~~contract extension for a period of up to three months for to preserve~~ continuity of
47 services when a formal contract extension or renewal process has not been completed within 10
48 business days of after the subsequent contract start date if all of expiration of the original contract;
49 provided, however, that all of the following requirements are met:

- 50 (1) The nonprofit ~~grantee/recipient~~ grantee is receiving recurring ~~funding funds,~~
51 or nonrecurring state and/or federal funding State or federal funds, or any

1 combination of nonrecurring State and federal funds, for each year of a fiscal
 2 biennium.

- 3 (2) The nonprofit ~~grantee/recipient~~ grantee has received an unqualified audit
 4 report on its most recent financial audit when an audit is required by
 5 G.S. 159-34 or 09 NCAC 03M.
- 6 (3) The nonprofit ~~grantee/recipient~~ grantee has a track record of timely
 7 performance and financial reporting to the Department as required by the
 8 contract.
- 9 (4) The nonprofit ~~grantee/recipient~~ grantee has not been identified by the
 10 Department as having a record of noncompliance with requirements of any
 11 funding source used to support the contract and has not received an undisputed
 12 notice of such noncompliance from the Department. For purposes of this
 13 requirement, noncompliance does not include issues stemming from late
 14 execution of a contract or mutually agreed upon changes to scope of work or
 15 deliverables, and undisputed notice of noncompliance does not include notice
 16 of noncompliance where the nonprofit grantee has provided written evidence
 17 of actual compliance to the Department within 30 days ~~of~~ after receipt of a
 18 notice of noncompliance.
- 19 (5) The nonprofit ~~grantee/recipient~~ grantee has been in operation for at least five
 20 years.

21 In the event of an automatic contract extension pursuant to this subsection, the terms of the
 22 expired contract shall govern the relationship and obligations of the party until the end of the
 23 three-month contract extension period or until the execution of a formal contract extension or
 24 renewal, whichever occurs first.

25 ...

26 "**SECTION 2.(c)** Negotiated Overhead Rates. – The negotiation, determination, or
 27 settlement of the reimbursable amount of overhead under cost-reimbursement type contracts is
 28 accomplished on an individual contract basis and is based upon the federally approved indirect
 29 cost rate. For ~~vendors who~~ grantees, including nonprofit grantees, that (i) are receiving financial
 30 assistance and do not have a federally approved indirect cost rate, rate from a federal agency or
 31 (ii) have a previously negotiated but expired rate, the Department may allow the grantee, in
 32 accordance with 2 C.F.R. § 200.332(a)(4) or 2 C.F.R. § 200.414(f), the de minimis rate of ten
 33 percent (10%) of modified total direct costs shall apply to use the de minimis rate or ten percent
 34 (10%) of modified total direct costs. Alternatively, the grantee may negotiate or waive an indirect
 35 cost rate with the Department. If State or federal law or regulations establish a limitation on the
 36 amount of funds the grantee may use for administrative purposes, then that limitation controls,
 37 in accordance with 2 C.F.R. § 200.414(c)(3)."

38
 39 **PART III. LAWS PERTAINING TO THE DIVISION OF CHILD AND FAMILY**
 40 **WELL-BEING**

41
 42 **CONFORMING CHANGES RELATED TO ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW DIVISION**

43 **SECTION 3.1.** G.S. 7B-1402 reads as rewritten:

44 "**§ 7B-1402. Task Force – creation; membership; vacancies.**

45 (a) There is created the North Carolina Child Fatality Task Force within the Department
 46 of Health and Human Services for budgetary purposes only.

47 (b) The Task Force shall be composed of 36 members, 12 of whom shall be ex officio
 48 members, four of whom shall be appointed by the Governor, 10 of whom shall be appointed by
 49 the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and 10 of whom shall be appointed by the President
 50 Pro Tempore of the Senate. The ex officio members other than the Chief Medical Examiner may
 51 designate representatives from their particular departments, divisions, or offices to represent

1 them on the Task Force. In making appointments or designating representatives, appointing
 2 authorities and ex officio members shall use best efforts to select members or representatives
 3 with sufficient knowledge and experience to effectively contribute to the issues examined by the
 4 Task Force and, to the extent possible, to reflect the geographical, political, gender, and racial
 5 diversity of this State. The members shall be as follows:

- 6 (1) The Chief Medical Examiner.
- 7 (2) The Attorney General.
- 8 (3) The Director of the Division of Social ~~Services~~Services, Department of
 9 Health and Human Services.
- 10 (4) The Director of the State Bureau of Investigation.
- 11 (5) The Director of the ~~Maternal and Child Health Section of the~~ Division of
 12 Public Health, Department of Health and Human Services.
- 13 (6) The chair of the Council for Women and Youth Involvement.
- 14 (7) The Superintendent of Public Instruction.
- 15 (8) The Chairman of the State Board of Education.
- 16 (9) The Director of the ~~Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities,~~
 17 ~~and Substance Abuse Services.~~ Division of Child and Family Well-Being,
 18 Department of Health and Human Services.

19"

20 **SECTION 3.2.** G.S. 7B-1404(b) reads as rewritten:

21 "(b) The State Team shall be composed of the following 11 members of whom nine
 22 members are ex officio and two are appointed:

- 23 (1) The Chief Medical Examiner, who shall chair the State ~~Team~~Team.
- 24 (2) The Attorney ~~General~~General.
- 25 (3) The Director of the Division of Social Services, Department of Health and
 26 Human ~~Services~~Services.
- 27 (4) The Director of the State Bureau of ~~Investigation~~Investigation.
- 28 (5) The Director of the Division of ~~Maternal and Child Health of the~~ Public
 29 Health, Department of Health and Human ServicesServices.
- 30 (6) The Superintendent of Public ~~Instruction~~Instruction.
- 31 (7) The Director of the Division of ~~Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities,~~
 32 ~~and Substance Abuse Services,~~ of Child and Family Well-Being, Department
 33 of Health and Human ServicesServices.
- 34 (8) The Director of the Administrative Office of the ~~Courts~~Courts.
- 35 (9) The pediatrician appointed pursuant to G.S. 7B-1402(b) to the Task
 36 ~~Force~~Force.
- 37 (10) A public member, appointed by the ~~Governor~~and Governor.
- 38 (11) The Team Coordinator.

39 The ex officio members other than the Chief Medical Examiner may designate a
 40 representative from their departments, divisions, or offices to represent them on the State Team."

41 **SECTION 3.3.** G.S. 122C-113(b1) reads as rewritten:

42 "(b1) The Secretary shall cooperate with the State Board of Education and the Division of
 43 Juvenile Justice of the Department of Public Safety in coordinating the responsibilities of the
 44 Department of Health and Human Services, the State Board of Education, the Division of
 45 Juvenile Justice of the Department of Public Safety, and the Department of Public Instruction for
 46 adolescent substance abuse programs. The Department of Health and Human Services, through
 47 its Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse ~~Services,~~
 48 Services and its Division of Child and Family Well-Being, in cooperation with the Division of
 49 Juvenile Justice of the Department of Public Safety, shall be responsible for intervention and
 50 treatment in non-school based programs. The State Board of Education and the Department of
 51 Public Instruction, in consultation with the Division of Juvenile Justice of the Department of

1 Public Safety, shall have primary responsibility for in-school education, identification, and
2 intervention services, including student assistance programs."

3 **SECTION 3.4.** G.S. 122C-142.2(g) reads as rewritten:

4 "(g) The Rapid Response Team shall be comprised of representatives of the Department
5 of Health and Human Services from the Division of Social Services; the Division of Mental
6 Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services; the Division of Child and
7 Family Well-Being; and the Division of Health Benefits. Upon receipt of a notification from a
8 director, the Rapid Response Team shall evaluate the information provided and coordinate a
9 response to address the immediate needs of the juvenile, which may include any of the following:

- 10 (1) Identifying an appropriate level of care for the juvenile.
- 11 (2) Identifying appropriate providers or other placement for the juvenile.
- 12 (3) Making a referral to qualified services providers.
- 13 (4) Developing an action plan to ensure the needs of the juvenile are met.
- 14 (5) Developing a plan to ensure that relevant parties carry out any responsibilities
15 to the juvenile."

17 PART IV. LAWS PERTAINING TO THE DIVISION OF HEALTH SERVICE 18 REGULATION

20 MEDICAL CARE COMMISSION CLARIFICATION OF POWERS AND DUTIES

21 **SECTION 4.1.** G.S. 143B-165 reads as rewritten:

22 "**§ 143B-165. North Carolina Medical Care Commission – creation, powers and duties.**

23 There is hereby created the North Carolina Medical Care Commission of the Department of
24 Health and Human Services with the power and duty to ~~promulgate~~ adopt rules and regulations
25 to be followed in the construction and maintenance of public and private hospitals, medical
26 centers, and ~~related facilities with the power and duty regulated under Chapters 131D and 131E~~
27 of the General Statutes; to adopt, amend and rescind rules ~~and regulations~~ under and not
28 inconsistent with the laws of the State as necessary to carry out the provisions and purposes of
29 this Article; and to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the individuals served by
30 these facilities.

- 31 (1) The North Carolina Medical Care Commission ~~has the duty to~~ shall adopt
32 statewide plans for the construction and maintenance of hospitals, medical
33 centers, and ~~related facilities,~~ facilities regulated under Chapters 131D and
34 131E of the General Statutes, or such other plans as may be found desirable
35 and necessary ~~in order~~ to meet the requirements and receive the benefits of
36 any applicable federal legislation with regard thereto. ~~legislation.~~
- 37 (2) The Commission ~~is authorized to~~ may adopt such rules ~~and regulations~~ as may
38 be necessary to carry out the intent and purposes of Article ~~13-4~~ 4 of Chapter
39 ~~131-131E~~ 131E of the General Statutes of North Carolina. ~~Statutes.~~
- 40 (3) ~~The Commission may adopt such reasonable and necessary standards with~~
41 ~~reference thereto as may be proper to cooperate fully with the Surgeon~~
42 ~~General or other agencies or departments of the United States and the use of~~
43 ~~funds provided by the federal government as contained and referenced in~~
44 ~~Article 13 of Chapter 131 of the General Statutes of North Carolina.~~
- 45 (4) The Commission ~~shall have~~ has the power and duty to approve projects in the
46 amounts of grants-in-aid from funds supplied by the federal and State
47 governments for the planning and construction of hospitals and other related
48 medical facilities ~~according to the provisions of Article 13 in accordance with~~
49 Articles 4 and 5 of Chapter 131-131E of the General Statutes of North
50 Carolina. ~~Statutes.~~
- 51 (5) Repealed by Session Laws 1981 (Regular Session, 1982), c. 1388, s. 3.

- 1 (6) The Commission ~~has the duty to~~ shall adopt rules ~~and regulations and~~
2 standards ~~with respect to~~ establishing standards for the licensure, inspection,
3 and operation of, and the provision of care and services by, the different types
4 of hospitals to be licensed under ~~the provisions of Article 13A~~ Articles 2 and
5 5 of Chapter ~~131~~ 131E of the General Statutes of North Carolina. ~~Statutes.~~
- 6 (7) The Commission ~~is authorized and empowered to~~ may adopt such rules ~~and~~
7 ~~regulations, rules,~~ not inconsistent with the laws of this State, as may be
8 required by the federal government ~~for to~~ secure federal grants-in-aid for
9 medical facility services and licensure ~~which may be made available to the~~
10 State ~~by the federal government.~~ licensure. This section ~~is to~~ shall be liberally
11 construed in order that the State and its citizens may benefit from such
12 grants-in-aid.
- 13 (8) The Commission shall adopt such ~~rules and regulations,~~ rules, consistent with
14 the provisions of this Chapter. All rules ~~and regulations not inconsistent with~~
15 ~~the provisions of this Chapter heretofore~~ adopted by the North Carolina
16 ~~Medical Care Commission~~ since the enactment of Chapter 131E of the
17 General Statutes that are not inconsistent with the provisions of this Chapter
18 shall remain in full force and effect ~~unless and until~~ repealed or superseded by
19 action of the North Carolina Medical Care Commission. All rules ~~and~~
20 ~~regulations~~ adopted by the Commission shall be enforced by the Department
21 of Health and Human Services.
- 22 (9) The Commission ~~shall have the power and duty to~~ may adopt rules ~~and~~
23 ~~regulations with regard to~~ concerning emergency medical services in
24 accordance with the provisions of Article ~~26~~ 7 of Chapter ~~130~~ 131E and
25 Article 56 of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes of North Carolina. ~~Statutes.~~
- 26 (10) The Commission ~~shall have the power and duty to~~ shall adopt rules for the
27 operation of nursing homes, as defined by Article 6 of Chapter 131E of the
28 General Statutes.
- 29 (11) The Commission ~~is authorized to~~ may adopt such rules as ~~may be necessary~~
30 to ~~carry out the provisions of Part C of Article 6, and Article 10,~~ establish
31 standards for the licensure, inspection, and operation of, and the provision of
32 care and services by, facilities licensed under Articles 6 and 10 of Chapter
33 131E of the General Statutes of North Carolina. ~~Statutes.~~
- 34 (12) The Commission shall adopt rules, ~~including temporary rules pursuant to G.S.~~
35 ~~150B-13,~~ rules providing for the accreditation of facilities that perform
36 mammography procedures and for laboratories evaluating screening pap
37 smears. Mammography accreditation standards shall address, but are not
38 limited to, the quality of mammography equipment used and the skill levels
39 and other qualifications of personnel who administer mammographies and
40 personnel who interpret mammogram results. The Commission's standards
41 shall be no less stringent than those established by the United States
42 Department of Health and Human Services for Medicare/Medicaid coverage
43 of screening mammography. These rules shall also specify procedures for
44 waiver of these accreditation standards on an individual basis for any facility
45 providing screening mammography to a significant number of patients, but
46 only if there is no accredited facility located nearby. The Commission may
47 grant a waiver subject to any conditions it deems necessary to protect the
48 health and safety of patients, including requiring the facility to submit a plan
49 to meet accreditation standards.
- 50 (13) The Commission ~~shall have the power and duty to~~ shall adopt rules
51 establishing standards for the ~~inspection and licensure of~~ licensure, inspection,

1 and operation of, and the provision of care and services by, adult care homes
 2 and operation of adult care homes, as defined by Article 1 of Chapter 131D of
 3 the General Statutes, and for personnel requirements of staff employed in
 4 adult care homes, except ~~where~~ when rule-making authority is assigned by
 5 law to the Secretary.

6 (14) The Commission shall adopt rules establishing standards for the following
 7 with respect to facilities used as multiunit assisted housing with services, as
 8 defined by Article 1 of Chapter 131D of the General Statutes:

- 9 a. Registration and deregistration.
 10 b. Disclosure statements.
 11 c. Agreements for services.
 12 d. Personnel requirements.
 13 e. Resident admissions and discharges."
 14

15 **PART V. LAWS PERTAINING TO THE DIVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH,**
 16 **DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES, AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES**

17
 18 **TECHNICAL CHANGES/POPULATIONS COVERED BY LME/MCOS**

19 **SECTION 5.1.(a)** G.S. 122C-115 reads as rewritten:

20 "**§ 122C-115. Duties of counties; appropriation and allocation of funds by counties and**
 21 **cities.**

22 ...

23 (e) ~~Beginning on the date that capitated contracts under Article 4 of Chapter 108D of the~~
 24 ~~General Statutes begin, July 1, 2021, LME/MCOs shall cease managing Medicaid services for~~
 25 ~~all Medicaid recipients other than recipients described in G.S. 108D-40(a)(1), (4), (5), (6), (7),~~
 26 ~~(10), (11), (12), and (13), who are enrolled in a standard benefit plan.~~

27 (e1) Until BH IDD tailored plans become operational, all of the following shall occur:

- 28 (1) LME/MCOs shall continue to manage the Medicaid services that are covered
 29 by the LME/MCOs under the combined 1915(b) and (c) waivers for Medicaid
 30 recipients ~~described in G.S. 108D-40(a)(1), (4), (5), (6), (7), (10), (11), (12),~~
 31 ~~and (13), who are covered by the those waivers and who are not enrolled in a~~
 32 standard benefit plan.
 33 (2) The Division of Health Benefits shall negotiate actuarially sound capitation
 34 rates directly with the LME/MCOs based on the change in composition of the
 35 population being served by the LME/MCOs.
 36 (3) Capitation payments under contracts between the Division of Health Benefits
 37 and the LME/MCOs shall be made directly to the LME/MCO by the Division
 38 of Health Benefits.

39 (f) ~~Entities LME/MCOs operating the BH IDD tailored plans under G.S. 108D-60 may~~
 40 ~~continue to manage the behavioral health, intellectual and developmental disability, and~~
 41 ~~traumatic brain injury services for any Medicaid recipients described in G.S. 108D-40(a)(4), (5),~~
 42 ~~(7), (10), (11), (12), and (13) under any contract with the Department in accordance with~~
 43 ~~G.S. 108D-60(b), who are not enrolled in a BH IDD tailored plan."~~

44 **SECTION 5.1.(b)** G.S. 108D-60(b) reads as rewritten:

45 "(b) The Department may contract with entities operating BH IDD tailored plans under a
 46 capitated or other arrangement for the management of behavioral health, intellectual and
 47 developmental disability, and traumatic brain injury services for any recipients ~~excluded from~~
 48 ~~PHP coverage under G.S. 108D-40(a)(4), (5), (7), (10), (11), (12), and (13), who are not enrolled~~
 49 in a BH IDD tailored plan."

50 **SECTION 5.1.(c)** G.S. 122C-3 reads as rewritten:

51 "**§ 122C-3. Definitions.**

The following definitions apply in this Chapter:

- ...
 - (2b) ~~"Behavioral~~ Behavioral health and intellectual/developmental disabilities tailored ~~plan" plan~~ or "BH-BH IDD tailored ~~plan" has the same meaning as plan.~~ – As defined in G.S. 108D-1.
 - ...
 - (29b) ~~"Prepaid-Prepaid health plan" has the same meaning as plan.~~ – As defined in G.S. 108D-1.
 - ...
 - (35b) Specialty services. – Services that are provided to consumers from low-incidence populations.
 - ~~(35e) State or Local Consumer Advocate. — The individual carrying out the duties of the State or Local Consumer Advocacy Program Office in accordance with Article 1A of this Chapter.~~
 - (35d) Standard benefit plan. – As defined in G.S. 108D-1.
 - (35e) State Plan. – The State Plan for Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services.
 - ~~(35e)~~(35f) State resources. – State and federal funds and other receipts administered by the Division.
 -"

CHANGES TO EFFECTUATE RENAMING OF DIVISION

SECTION 5.2.(a) G.S. 143B-138.1(a)(4) reads as rewritten:

"(4) Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse ~~Use~~ Services."

SECTION 5.2.(b) Throughout the General Statutes, the Revisor of Statutes shall replace the phrase "Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services" with the phrase "Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Use Services."

SECTION 5.2.(c) Throughout the General Statutes, the Revisor of Statutes shall replace the phrase "MH/DD/SAS" with the phrase "MH/DD/SUS."

PART VI. LAWS PERTAINING TO THE DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH

EXPANSION OF PERMISSIBLE USES FOR NEWBORN SCREENING EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT AND ACQUISITION FUND

SECTION 6.1. G.S. 130A-125(d) reads as rewritten:

"(d) The Newborn Screening Equipment Replacement and Acquisition Fund (Fund) is established as a nonreverting fund within the Department. Thirty-one dollars (\$31.00) of each fee collected pursuant to subsection (c) of this section shall be credited to this Fund and applied to the Newborn Screening Program to be used as directed in this subsection. The Department shall not use monies in this Fund for any purpose other than to ~~purchase or replace purchase,~~ replace, maintain, or support laboratory instruments, equipment, and information technology systems used in the Newborn Screening Program. The Department shall notify and consult with the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations whenever the balance in the Fund exceeds the following threshold: the sum of (i) the actual cost of new equipment necessary to incorporate conditions listed on the RUSP into the Newborn Screening Program and (ii) one hundred percent (100%) of the replacement value of existing equipment used in the Newborn Screening Program. Any monies in the Fund in excess of this threshold shall be available for expenditure only upon an act of appropriation by the General Assembly."

1 **EXPANSION OF QUALIFIED PROFESSIONALS ELIGIBLE TO SERVE AS COUNTY**
 2 **MEDICAL EXAMINERS**

3 **SECTION 6.2.** G.S. 130A-382 reads as rewritten:

4 "**§ 130A-382. County medical examiners; appointment; term of office; vacancies; training**
 5 **requirements; revocation for cause.**

6 (a) The Chief Medical Examiner shall appoint two or more county medical examiners for
 7 each county for a three-year term. In appointing medical examiners for each county, the Chief
 8 Medical Examiner shall give preference to physicians licensed to practice medicine in this State
 9 but may also appoint ~~licensed~~the following professionals:

10 (1) Dentists, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, nurses, or emergency
 11 physical therapists as long as the appointee is licensed to practice in this State.

12 (2) Emergency medical technician-technicians or paramedics credentialed under
 13 G.S. 131E-159.

14 (3) Pathologists' assistants certified by the American Society for Clinical
 15 Pathology.

16 (4) Pathologists' assistants or medicolegal death investigators certified by a
 17 nationally recognized certifying body determined by the Chief Medical
 18 Examiner to have an appropriate certification process for pathologists'
 19 assistants or medicolegal death investigators to demonstrate readiness to serve
 20 as a county medical examiner.

21 A medical examiner may serve more than one county. The Chief Medical Examiner may take
 22 jurisdiction in any case or appoint another medical examiner to do so.

23 (a1) During a state of emergency declared by the Governor or by a resolution of the
 24 General Assembly pursuant to G.S. 166A-19.20, or by the governing body of a municipality or
 25 county pursuant to G.S. 166A-19.22, the Chief Medical Examiner may appoint temporary county
 26 medical examiners to serve until the expiration of the declared state of emergency. In appointing
 27 temporary county medical examiners pursuant to this subsection, the Chief Medical Examiner
 28 may appoint any individual determined by the Chief Medical Examiner to have the appropriate
 29 training, education, and experience to serve as a county medical examiner during a declared state
 30 of emergency.

31"

32
 33 **PART VII. LAWS PERTAINING TO THE DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

34
 35 **ALIGNMENT OF TIME LINE FOR COUNTY TANF PLAN SUBMISSIONS**

36 **SECTION 7.1.(a)** G.S. 108A-24(1e) reads as rewritten:

37 "(1e) "County Plan" is the ~~biennial~~triennial Work First Program plan prepared by
 38 each Electing County pursuant to this Article and submitted to the Department
 39 for incorporation into the State Plan that also includes the Standard Work First
 40 Program."

41 **SECTION 7.1.(b)** G.S. 108A-27.3(a)(12) reads as rewritten:

42 "(12) Develop, adopt, and submit to the Department a ~~biennial~~triennial County
 43 Plan;"

44 **SECTION 7.1.(c)** G.S. 108A-27.4(a) reads as rewritten:

45 "(a) Each Electing County shall submit to the Department, according to the schedule
 46 established by the Department and in compliance with all federal and State laws, rules, and
 47 regulations, a ~~biennial~~triennial County Plan."

48
 49 **AMENDMENT OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT SCHOOL POSTERS**

50 **SECTION 7.2.(a)** G.S. 115C-12(47) reads as rewritten:

"(47) Duty Regarding Child Abuse and Neglect. – The State Board of Education, in consultation with the Superintendent of Public Instruction, shall adopt a rule requiring information on child abuse and neglect, including age-appropriate information on sexual abuse, to be provided by public school units to students in grades six through 12. This rule shall also apply to high schools under the control of The University of North Carolina. Information shall be provided in the form of (i) a document provided to all students at the beginning of each school year and (ii) a display posted in visible, high-traffic areas throughout each public secondary school. The document and display shall include, at a minimum, the following information:

- a. Likely warning signs indicating that a child may be a victim of abuse or neglect, including age-appropriate information on sexual abuse.
- b. The telephone number used for reporting abuse and neglect to the department of social services in the county in which the school is located, in accordance with G.S. 7B-301.
- c. A statement that information reported pursuant to sub-subdivision b. of this subdivision shall be held in the strictest confidence, to the extent permitted by law, pursuant to G.S. 7B-302(a1).
- d. ~~Available resources developed pursuant to G.S. 115C-105.51, including the anonymous safety tip line application."~~

SECTION 7.2.(b) This section is effective when it becomes law and applies beginning with the 2023-2024 school year.

AUTHORIZATION FOR APPLICATION OF FEDERALLY MANDATED TOOLS TO ENFORCE CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENTS

SECTION 7.3.(a) G.S. 110-129 reads as rewritten:

"§ 110-129. Definitions.

As used in this Article:

...
 (6a) "Financial Management Services" (FMS) means the unit of the U.S. Department of the Treasury, which, under federal law, offsets certain federal payments to satisfy support arrears.

...
 (9a) "Internal Revenue Service" (IRS) means the unit of the U.S. Department of the Treasury, which, under federal law, offsets income tax refunds against certain support arrears.

...
 (12a) "Offset" means withholding by the IRS or FMS of all or part of an income tax refund or certain federal payments due an obligor and remitting payments to the federal Office of Child Support Enforcement for transmittal to the State.

...."

SECTION 7.3.(b) G.S. 110-129.1(a) reads as rewritten:

"(a) In addition to other powers and duties conferred upon the Department of Health and Human Services, Child Support Enforcement Program, by this Chapter or other State law, the Department shall have the following powers and duties:

...
 (10) Certify obligors to the federal Office of Child Support Enforcement for the Passport Denial Program under G.S. 110-143.

(11) Certify to the federal Office of Child Support Enforcement determinations that an obligor in a IV-D case owes support arrears in an amount equal to or greater than the federally mandated thresholds for offset of federal income tax refunds

1 under 42 U.S.C. § 664(b)(2) if the arrears are assigned to the State and 45
2 C.F.R. § 303.72(a)(2) if the arrears are not assigned to the State.

3 (12) Certify obligors to the federal Office of Child Support Enforcement for the
4 Administrative Offset Program under G.S. 110-144."

5 **SECTION 7.3.(c)** Article 9 of Chapter 110 of the General Statutes is amended by
6 adding the following new sections to read:

7 **"§ 110-143. Passport Denial Program.**

8 (a) Participation. – The Department of Health and Human Services shall participate in
9 the federal Passport Denial Program for the denial, revocation, or limitation of an obligor's
10 passports under 42 U.S.C. § 654(31) and 42 U.S.C. § 652(k).

11 (b) Certification. – The Department shall annually certify to the federal Office of Child
12 Support Enforcement (OCSE) an obligor in a IV-D case whose support arrears exceed the
13 federally mandated threshold in 42 U.S.C. § 654(31). The OCSE shall transmit the certification
14 to the U.S. Department of State pursuant to the federal Passport Denial Program.

15 (c) Notice. – The Department shall send written notice of the certification to the obligor
16 at the obligor's last known address. The notice shall advise the obligor of all of the following:

17 (1) The amount of the arrears as of the date of the notice.

18 (2) The possibility that the obligor's passport may be denied, revoked, or
19 restricted by the U.S. Department of State.

20 (3) The procedure to contest the certification.

21 (d) Appeal. – Within 60 days of the date the notice is placed in the mail to the obligor,
22 the obligor may file a contested case petition with the North Carolina Office of Administrative
23 Hearings to contest the certification. The contested case shall be conducted in accordance with
24 Article 3 of Chapter 150B of the General Statutes. The obligor may contest the certification only
25 if one of the following applies:

26 (1) An arrearage does not exist.

27 (2) An arrearage does exist, but never exceeded the federally mandated threshold.

28 (3) There is a claim of mistaken identity.

29 (e) Withdrawal of Certification. – The Department shall notify the OCSE if the obligor's
30 support arrears are paid in full.

31 **"§ 110-144. Administrative Offset Program.**

32 (a) Participation. – The Department of Health and Human Services shall participate in
33 the federal Administrative Offset Program for the offset of certain federal payments under 31
34 C.F.R. § 285.1.

35 (b) Certification. – The Department shall annually certify to the federal Office of Child
36 Support Enforcement (OCSE) an obligor in a IV-D case whose support arrears are (i) equal to or
37 greater than one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00) if the arrears are assigned to the State and (ii)
38 equal to or greater than five hundred dollars (\$500.00) if the arrears are not assigned to the State.

39 (c) Notice. – At least 30 days before certification, the Department shall send written
40 notice of the certification to the obligor at the obligor's last known address. The notice shall
41 advise the obligor of all of the following:

42 (1) The amount of the arrears as of the date of the notice.

43 (2) The possibility that the obligor may have certain federal payments offset by
44 FMS.

45 (3) The procedures to contest the certification.

46 Without further notice to the obligor, the Department shall provide OCSE with updates to
47 adjust the amount of arrears to reflect any payments or additional arrears that accrue after the
48 date of certification.

49 (d) Appeal. – Within 60 days of the date the notice is placed in the mail to the obligor,
50 the obligor may file a contested case petition with the North Carolina Office of Administrative
51 Hearings to contest the certification. The contested case shall be conducted in accordance with

1 Article 3 of Chapter 150B of the General Statutes. The obligor may contest the certification only
2 if either of the following applies:

- 3 (1) The amount of arrears stated in the notice is incorrect.
- 4 (2) There is a claim of mistaken identity."

5
6 **AUTHORIZATION FOR DSS TO GRANT EXCEPTIONS FOR EQUIVALENT CHILD**
7 **WELFARE TRAINING COMPLETED IN ANOTHER STATE**

8 **SECTION 7.4.** G.S. 131D-10.6A reads as rewritten:

9 **"§ 131D-10.6A. Training by the Division of Social Services required.**

10 ...

11 (b) The Division of Social Services shall establish minimum training requirements for
12 child welfare services staff. The minimum training requirements established by the Division are
13 as follows:

- 14 (1) Child welfare services workers shall complete a minimum of 72 hours of
15 preservice training before assuming direct client contact responsibilities. In
16 completing this requirement, the Division of Social Services shall ensure that
17 each child welfare worker receives training on family centered practices and
18 State and federal law regarding the basic rights of individuals relevant to the
19 provision of child welfare services, including the right to privacy, freedom
20 from duress and coercion to induce cooperation, and the right to parent.
- 21 (2) Child protective services workers shall complete a minimum of 18 hours of
22 additional training that the Division of Social Services determines is necessary
23 to adequately meet training needs.
- 24 (3) Foster care and adoption workers shall complete a minimum of 39 hours of
25 additional training that the Division of Social Services determines is necessary
26 to adequately meet training needs.
- 27 (4) Child welfare services supervisors shall complete a minimum of 72 hours of
28 preservice training before assuming supervisory responsibilities and a
29 minimum of 54 hours of additional training that the Division of Social
30 Services determines is necessary to adequately meet training needs.
- 31 (5) Child welfare services staff shall complete 24 hours of continuing education
32 annually. In completing this requirement, the Division of Social Services shall
33 provide each child welfare services staff member with annual update
34 information on family centered practices and State and federal law regarding
35 the basic rights of individuals relevant to the provision of child welfare
36 services, including the right to privacy, freedom from duress and coercion to
37 induce cooperation, and the right to parent.

38 (c) The Division of Social Services may grant an exception in whole or in part to the
39 requirement under subdivision ~~(1) of this subsection~~ (b)(1) of this section to child welfare
40 workers who ~~satisfactorily meet either of the following:~~

- 41 (1) Satisfactorily complete or are enrolled in a masters or bachelors program after
42 July 1, 1999, from a North Carolina social work program accredited pursuant
43 to the Council on Social Work Education. The program's curricula must cover
44 the specific preservice training requirements as established by the Division of
45 Social Services.
- 46 (2) Have child welfare work experience in another state and have completed child
47 welfare training equivalent to training in this State.

48 (d) The Division of Social Services shall ensure that training opportunities are available
49 for county departments of social services and consolidated human service agencies to meet the
50 training requirements of ~~this subsection~~ subsection (b) of this section."

1 **CLARIFICATION OF WHO SETS MAXIMUM DAILY RATE FOR ADULT DAY**
2 **CARE SERVICES**

3 **SECTION 7.5.** G.S. 143B-153(2a)b.3. reads as rewritten:

4 "3. Maximum rates of payment for the provision of social services,
5 except there shall be no maximum statewide reimbursement
6 rate for adult day care services, adult day health services, and
7 the associated transportation services, as these reimbursement
8 rates shall be determined ~~at the local level~~ by the county
9 department of social services or a designee of the board of
10 county commissioners to allow flexibility in responding to
11 local variables."
12

13 **PART VIII. LAWS PERTAINING TO THE DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL**
14 **REHABILITATION SERVICES**

15
16 **CHANGES TO EFFECTUATE RENAMING OF DIVISION**

17 **SECTION 8.1.** G.S. 108A-26 reads as rewritten:

18 **"§ 108A-26. Certain financial assistance and in-kind goods not considered in determining**
19 **assistance paid under Chapters 108A and 111.**

20 Financial assistance and in-kind goods or services received from a governmental agency, or
21 from a civic or charitable organization, shall not be considered in determining the amount of
22 assistance to be paid any person under Chapters 108A and 111 of the General Statutes provided
23 that such financial assistance and in-kind goods and services are incorporated in the rehabilitation
24 plan of such person being assisted by the Division of ~~Vocational Rehabilitation Services~~
25 Employment and Independence for People with Disabilities or the Division of Services for the
26 Blind of the Department of Health and Human Services, except where such goods and services
27 are required to be considered by federal law or regulations."

28 **SECTION 8.2.** G.S. 111-11.1 reads as rewritten:

29 **"§ 111-11.1. Jurisdiction of certain Divisions within the Department of Health and Human**
30 **Services.**

31 For the purpose of providing rehabilitative services to people who are visually impaired, the
32 Division of Services for the Blind and the Division of ~~Vocational Rehabilitation Services~~
33 Employment and Independence for People with Disabilities shall develop and enter into an
34 agreement specifying which agency can most appropriately meet the specific needs of this client
35 population. If the Divisions cannot reach an agreement, the Secretary of Health and Human
36 Services shall determine which Division can most appropriately meet the specific needs of this
37 client population."

38 **SECTION 8.3.** G.S. 122C-22(a)(7) reads as rewritten:

39 "(7) Persons subject to rules and regulations of the Division of ~~Vocational~~
40 ~~Rehabilitation Services~~ Employment and Independence for People with
41 Disabilities."

42 **SECTION 8.4.** G.S. 131D-2.3 reads as rewritten:

43 **"§ 131D-2.3. Exemptions from licensure.**

44 The following are excluded from this Article and are not required to be registered or obtain
45 licensure under this Article:

- 46 (1) Facilities licensed under Chapter 122C or Chapter 131E of the General
47 ~~Statutes~~ Statutes.
- 48 (2) Persons subject to rules of the Division of ~~Vocational Rehabilitation~~
49 ~~Services~~ Employment and Independence for People with Disabilities.
- 50 (3) Facilities that care for no more than four persons, all of whom are under the
51 supervision of the United States Veterans ~~Administration~~ Administration.

- 1 (4) Facilities that make no charges for housing, amenities, or personal care
 2 service, either directly or ~~indirectly~~; and ~~indirectly~~.
- 3 (5) Institutions that are maintained or operated by a unit of government and that
 4 were established, maintained, or operated by a unit of government and exempt
 5 from licensure by the Department on September 30, 1995."

6 **SECTION 8.5.** G.S. 143-545.1(a) reads as rewritten:

7 "(a) Policy. – Recognizing that disability is a natural part of human experience, the State
 8 establishes as its policy that individuals with physical and mental disabilities should be able to
 9 participate to the maximum extent of their abilities in the economic, educational, cultural, social,
 10 and political activities available to all citizens of the State. To implement this policy, the
 11 Department of Health and Human Services shall establish and operate comprehensive and
 12 accountable programs of vocational rehabilitation and independent living for persons with
 13 disabilities. These programs are to be administered by the Division of ~~Vocational Rehabilitation~~
 14 ~~Services~~ Employment and Independence for People with Disabilities in collaboration with the
 15 Division of Services for the Blind, which conducts vocational rehabilitation and independent
 16 living programs for individuals who are blind or visually impaired, pursuant to Chapter 111 of
 17 the General Statutes and the rules of the Commission for the Blind adopted pursuant to
 18 G.S. 143B-157. The programs so provided shall be administered according to the following
 19 principles:

20"

21 **SECTION 8.6.** G.S. 143-547 reads as rewritten:

22 "**§ 143-547. Subrogation rights; withholding of information a misdemeanor.**

23 ...

24 (b) In furnishing a person rehabilitation services, including medical case services under
 25 this Chapter, the Division of ~~Vocational Rehabilitation Services~~ Employment and Independence
 26 for People with Disabilities is subrogated to the person's right of recovery from:

- 27 (1) Personal insurance;
- 28 (2) Worker's Compensation;
- 29 (3) Any other person or personal injury caused by the other person's negligence
 30 or wrongdoing; or
- 31 (4) Any other source.

32 (c) The Division of ~~Vocational Rehabilitation Services~~ Employment and Independence
 33 for People with Disabilities' right to subrogation is limited to the cost of the rehabilitation services
 34 provided by or through the Division for which a financial needs test is a condition of the service
 35 provisions. Those services that are provided without a financial needs test are excluded from
 36 these subrogation rights.

37 (d) The Division of ~~Vocational Rehabilitation Services~~ Employment and Independence
 38 for People with Disabilities may totally or partially waive subrogation rights when the Division
 39 finds that enforcement would tend to defeat the client's process of rehabilitation or when client
 40 assets can be used to offset additional Division costs.

41 (e) The Division of ~~Vocational Rehabilitation Services~~ Employment and Independence
 42 for People with Disabilities may adopt rules for the enforcement of its rights of subrogation.

43 (f) It is a Class 1 misdemeanor for a person seeking or having obtained assistance under
 44 this Part for himself or another to willfully fail to disclose to the Division of ~~Vocational~~
 45 ~~Rehabilitation Services~~ Employment and Independence for People with Disabilities or its
 46 attorney the identity of any person or organization against whom the recipient of assistance has
 47 a right of recovery, contractual or otherwise."

48 **SECTION 8.7.** G.S. 143-548 reads as rewritten:

49 "**§ 143-548. Vocational State Rehabilitation Council.**

50 (a) There is established the Vocational State Rehabilitation Council (Council) in support
 51 of the activities of the Division of ~~Vocational Rehabilitation Services~~ Employment and

1 Independence for People with Disabilities to be composed of not more than 18 appointed
 2 members. Appointed members shall be voting members except where prohibited by federal law
 3 or regulations. The Director of the Division of ~~Vocational Rehabilitation Services-Employment~~
 4 and Independence for People with Disabilities and one vocational rehabilitation counselor who
 5 is an employee of the Division shall serve ex officio as nonvoting members. The President Pro
 6 Tempore of the Senate shall appoint six members, the Speaker of the House of Representatives
 7 shall appoint six members, and the Governor shall appoint five or six members. The appointing
 8 authorities shall appoint members of the Council after soliciting recommendations from
 9 representatives of organizations representing a broad range of individuals with disabilities. Terms
 10 of appointment shall be as specified in subsection (d1) of this section. Appointments shall be
 11 made as follows:

12 ...

13 (b1) Additional Qualifications. – In addition to ensuring the qualifications for membership
 14 prescribed in subsection (a) of this section, the appointing authorities shall ensure that a majority
 15 of Council members are individuals with disabilities and are not employed by the Division of
 16 ~~Vocational Rehabilitation Services-Employment and Independence for People with Disabilities.~~

17"

18 PART IX. MISCELLANEOUS

20 MODIFICATION OF EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR REGISTERED 21 ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALISTS

22 SECTION 9.1.(a) G.S. 90A-53 reads as rewritten:

23 "§ 90A-53. **Qualifications and examination for registration as an environmental health
 24 specialist or environmental health specialist intern.**

25 (a) The Board shall issue a certificate to a qualified person as a registered environmental
 26 health specialist or a registered environmental health specialist intern. A certificate as a registered
 27 environmental health specialist or a registered environmental health specialist intern shall be
 28 issued to any person upon the Board's determination that the ~~person; person~~ satisfies all of the
 29 following criteria:

- 30
- 31 (1) Has made application to the Board on a form prescribed by the Board and paid
 32 a fee not to exceed one hundred dollars ~~(\$100.00);~~ (\$100.00).
 - 33 (2) Is of good moral and ethical character and has signed an agreement to adhere
 34 to the Code of Ethics adopted by the ~~Board;~~ Board.
 - 35 (3) Meets any of the following combinations of education and practice experience
 36 standards:
 - 37 a. ~~Graduated from a baccalaureate with a bachelor's degree or~~
 38 ~~postgraduate degree from a program that is accredited by the National~~
 39 ~~Environmental Health Science and Protection Accreditation Council~~
 40 ~~(EHAC) and has one or more years of experience in the field of~~
 41 ~~environmental health practice; or (EHAC).~~
 - 42 b. ~~Graduated from a baccalaureate or postgraduate degree program that~~
 43 ~~is accredited by an accrediting organization recognized by the United~~
 44 ~~States Department of Education, Council for Higher Education~~
 45 ~~Accreditation (CHEA) with a bachelor's degree or postgraduate degree~~
 46 ~~and meets both of the following:~~
 - 47 ~~1. Earned~~ earned a minimum of 30 semester hours or its
 48 ~~equivalent 45 quarter hours~~ in the physical or biological
 49 ~~sciences; and physical, biological, natural, life, or health~~
 50 ~~sciences and has one~~

- 1 ~~2. Has two or more years of experience in the field of~~
2 ~~environmental health practice.~~
3 c. ~~Graduated from a baccalaureate program rated as acceptable by the~~
4 ~~Board and meets both of the following: with a bachelor's degree or~~
5 ~~postgraduate degree in public health and has one or more years of~~
6 ~~experience in the field of environmental health practice.~~
7 ~~1. Earned a minimum of 30 semester hours or its equivalent in the~~
8 ~~physical or biological sciences; and~~
9 ~~2. Has two or more years of experience in the field of~~
10 ~~environmental health practice.~~
11 (4) Has satisfactorily completed a course in specialized instruction and training
12 approved by the Board in the practice of environmental ~~health;~~health.
13 (5) Repealed by Session Laws 2009-443, s. 4, effective August 7, 2009.
14 (6) Has passed an examination administered by the Board designed to test for
15 competence in the subject matters of environmental health sanitation. The
16 examination shall be in a form prescribed by the Board and may be oral,
17 written, or both. The examination for applicants shall be held annually or more
18 frequently as the Board may by rule prescribe, at a time and place to be
19 determined by the Board. A person shall not be registered if such person fails
20 to meet the minimum grade requirements for examination specified by the
21 Board. Failure to pass an examination shall not prohibit such person from
22 being examined at subsequent times and places as specified by the ~~Board;~~
23 and Board.
24 (7) Has paid a fee set by the Board not to exceed the cost of purchasing the
25 examination and an administrative fee not to exceed one hundred fifty dollars
26 (\$150.00).

27 (b) The Board may issue a certificate to a person serving as a registered environmental
28 health specialist intern without the person meeting the full requirements for experience of a
29 registered environmental health specialist for a period not to exceed ~~three~~two years from the date
30 of initial registration as a registered environmental health specialist intern, provided, the person
31 meets the educational requirements in G.S. 90A-53 and is in the field of environmental health
32 practice."

33 **SECTION 9.1.(b)** This section becomes effective October 1, 2023.

34
35 **PART X. ALLOW OPIOID TREATMENT PROGRAM MEDICATION UNITS AND**
36 **MOBILE UNITS**

37 **SECTION 10.1.** G.S. 122C-3 reads as rewritten:

38 "**§ 122C-3. Definitions.**

39 The following definitions apply in this Chapter:

40 ...

41 (14) Facility. – Any person at one ~~location~~location, or in the case of an opioid
42 treatment program facility licensed to operate an opioid treatment program
43 medication unit, an opioid treatment program mobile unit, or both, any person
44 at one or more locations, whose primary purpose is to provide services for the
45 care, treatment, habilitation, or rehabilitation of individuals with mental
46 illnesses or intellectual or other developmental disabilities or substance
47 abusers, and includes all of the following:

48 ...

49 i. An opioid treatment program facility licensed to operate an opioid
50 treatment program medication unit, an opioid treatment program
51 mobile unit, or both.

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- ...
- (23b) Mobile unit. – A motor vehicle that operates with more than three wheels in contact with the ground that may lawfully be used on the public streets, roads, or highways and from which opioid treatment program mobile unit services are provided at one or more locations.
- ...
- (25a) Opioid treatment program. – A facility with a current and valid registration under 21 U.S.C. § 823(g)(1) that meets all of the following criteria:
- a. Is engaged in dispensing and administering treatment medication approved by the Food and Drug Administration for the treatment of individuals with opioid use disorders.
 - b. Has been licensed as an opioid treatment program facility by the Division of Health Service Regulation.
- (25b) Opioid treatment program medication unit. – A unit established as part of an opioid treatment program facility that meets all of the following criteria:
- a. Operates at a geographically separate location from the opioid treatment program facility.
 - b. Is a site at which treatment medication approved by the Food and Drug Administration for the treatment of opioid use disorder is dispensed or administered and samples are collected for drug testing or analysis.
 - c. Is a site where intake or initial psychosocial and appropriate medical assessments may be conducted with a full physical examination to be completed or provided within 14 days of admission and the site provides appropriate privacy and adequate space for quality patient care, where treatment with medication approved by the Food and Drug Administration may be initiated after an appropriate medical assessment has been performed, and where other opioid treatment program services, such as counseling, may be provided directly, or when permissible, through the use of telehealth services and the site provides appropriate privacy and adequate space for quality patient care.
- (25c) Opioid treatment program mobile unit. – A mobile unit established as a mobile component of an opioid treatment program facility that meets all of the following criteria:
- a. Operates at one or more geographically separate, predetermined locations from the opioid treatment program facility.
 - b. Is a site at which treatment medication approved by the Food and Drug Administration for treatment of opioid use disorder is dispensed or administered and samples are collected for drug testing or analysis.
 - c. Is a site where intake or initial psychosocial and appropriate medical assessments may be conducted with a full physical examination to be completed or provided within 14 days of admission and the site provides appropriate privacy and adequate space for quality patient care, where treatment with medication approved by the Food and Drug Administration may be initiated after an appropriate medical assessment has been performed, and where other opioid treatment program services, such as counseling, may be provided directly or, when permissible, through the use of telehealth services and the site provides appropriate privacy and adequate space for quality patient care.
-"

1 SECTION 10.2. Article 2 of Chapter 122C of the General Statutes is amended by
2 adding a new section to read:

3 "§ 122C-35. Licensure of opioid treatment program medication units and opioid treatment
4 program mobile units.

5 (a) Any licensed opioid treatment program facility that intends to establish, maintain, or
6 operate an opioid treatment program medication unit or opioid treatment program mobile unit
7 shall apply to the Division of Health Service Regulation on forms prescribed by the Department
8 for certified services provided from an opioid treatment program medication unit or opioid
9 treatment program mobile unit to be added to its license. The Commission shall adopt rules
10 establishing the requirements for obtaining such licensure, which shall include a requirement that
11 each opioid treatment program medication unit and each opioid treatment program mobile unit
12 seeking to operate in this State must demonstrate satisfactory proof to the Secretary that it has (i)
13 obtained approval from the State Opioid Treatment Authority and (ii) registered with the
14 Department's Drug Control Unit and the federal Drug Enforcement Agency.

15 (b) An opioid treatment program facility shall not submit a license application to the
16 Division of Health Service Regulation to provide certified services at an opioid treatment
17 program facility medication unit or opioid treatment program mobile unit prior to receiving
18 approval from the State Opioid Treatment Authority or prior to receiving confirmation of
19 registration with the Department's Drug Control Unit and the federal Drug Enforcement Agency.

20 (c) The Department may issue a license to an opioid treatment program facility to provide
21 certified services at an opioid treatment program medication unit or an opioid treatment program
22 mobile unit if the Secretary finds that the program is in compliance with all rules adopted by the
23 Commission regarding opioid treatment programs. The Secretary may approve or deny an
24 application for a license to provide certified services based upon consideration of all of the
25 following criteria:

26 (1) The applicant's capacity, qualifications, and experience with regard to
27 providing treatment and operating an opioid treatment program medication
28 unit in compliance with applicable federal and State laws, regulations, and
29 accepted clinical standards of practice.

30 (2) Any history of adverse regulatory actions involving the applicant in North
31 Carolina or another state.

32 (3) Any history of suspension or revocation of, or other adverse regulatory action
33 against, any professional licenses or narcotic licenses of persons proposed to
34 be employed in the opioid treatment program medication unit or opioid
35 treatment program mobile unit, in North Carolina or in another state, or any
36 adverse regulatory action against the license of the opioid treatment program
37 facility within the 12-month period preceding the application for licensure.

38 (4) Any additional criteria or standards established in rules adopted by the
39 Commission regarding opioid treatment programs.

40 (d) An opioid treatment program facility shall not establish, maintain, or operate an
41 opioid treatment program medication unit or opioid treatment program mobile unit without a
42 current license from the Secretary that includes and covers that specific medication unit or mobile
43 unit and without first obtaining certification from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health
44 Services Administration.

45 (e) An opioid treatment program mobile unit or opioid treatment program medication
46 unit added to an opioid treatment program facility license shall be deemed part of the opioid
47 treatment program facility license and may be subject to inspections the Department deems
48 necessary to validate compliance with the requirements set forth in this section, applicable rules
49 adopted by the Commission, and all applicable federal laws and regulations, including, without
50 limitation, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration regulations in Parts 8
51 and 21 of Title 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations governing opioid treatment programs, and

1 federal Drug Enforcement Agency regulations in Parts 1300, 1301, and 1304 of Title 21 of the
2 Code of Federal Regulations, including 21 C.F.R. § 1301.13(e), governing controlled substances,
3 dispensers of controlled substances, mobile narcotic treatment programs, and federal Drug
4 Enforcement Agency restraints. Substantial failure to comply with the requirements of this
5 section, applicable rules adopted by the Commission, and applicable federal laws and regulations
6 may result in an adverse action on a license under G.S. 122C-24 and administrative penalties
7 under G.S. 122C-24.1. Any required services not provided in an opioid treatment program mobile
8 unit or opioid treatment program medication unit must be conducted at the opioid treatment
9 program facility, including medical, counseling, vocational, educational, and other assessment
10 and treatment services.

11 (f) Each license issued under this section to an opioid treatment program facility to
12 provide certified services at an opioid treatment program mobile unit or an opioid treatment
13 program medication unit shall expire on December 31 of the year for which it was issued and
14 shall be renewed annually by filing with the Division of Health Service Regulation on or after
15 December 1 an application for license renewal on forms prescribed by the Department,
16 accompanied by the required fee. License renewal shall be contingent upon (i) the applicant
17 providing all information required by the Secretary for renewal and (ii) continued compliance
18 with this Article and any applicable rules adopted by the Commission regarding opioid treatment
19 programs. The Department shall charge an opioid treatment program facility a nonrefundable
20 annual license fee plus a nonrefundable annual per-unit fee of two hundred sixty-five dollars
21 (\$265.00) for each opioid treatment program medication unit or opioid treatment program mobile
22 unit.

23 (g) The opioid treatment program facility is responsible for ensuring that opioid treatment
24 program medication units and opioid treatment program mobile medication units adhere to all
25 State and federal requirements for opioid treatment programs.

26 (h) Notwithstanding G.S. 122C-25(a), an opioid treatment program facility with no
27 previous violations of State or federal requirements for opioid treatment programs may be subject
28 to inspection once every other year, excluding any complaint investigation. An opioid treatment
29 program facility with either an opioid treatment program medication unit or an opioid treatment
30 program mobile unit may be subject to annual inspections.

31 (i) The Commission shall adopt emergency, temporary, or permanent rules for the
32 licensure, inspection, and operation of opioid treatment program medication units and opioid
33 treatment program mobile units, including rules concerning any of the following:

- 34 (1) Compliance with all applicable Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services
35 Administration and federal Drug Enforcement Agency regulations governing
36 opioid treatment program mobile units and opioid treatment program
37 medication units.
- 38 (2) Identification of the location of opioid treatment program medication units
39 and opioid treatment program mobile units.
- 40 (3) Schedules for the days and hours of operation to meet client needs.
- 41 (4) Maintenance and location of records.
- 42 (5) Requisite clinical staff and staffing ratios to meet immediate client needs at
43 each opioid treatment program medication unit or opioid treatment program
44 mobile unit, including client needs for nursing, counseling, and medical care.
- 45 (6) Emergency staffing requirements to ensure service delivery.
- 46 (7) Criteria for policies and procedures for a clinical and individualized
47 assessment of individuals to receive services at an opioid treatment
48 medication unit or opioid treatment mobile unit that consider medical and
49 clinical appropriateness and accessibility to individuals served.
- 50 (8) Number of clients allowed per opioid treatment program medication unit and
51 opioid treatment program mobile unit, based on staffing ratios.

- 1 (9) Criteria to ensure the opioid treatment program facility is providing the
2 required counseling to individuals receiving services at an opioid treatment
3 program medication unit or opioid treatment program mobile unit.
4 (10) Criteria for the opioid treatment program facility to ensure that individuals
5 receiving services at an opioid treatment program medication unit or opioid
6 treatment program mobile unit receive medical interventions when
7 necessary."

8 **SECTION 10.3.** The Medical Care Commission shall adopt, pursuant to
9 G.S. 150B-21.1A, emergency rules for the implementation of G.S. 122C-35, enacted by Section
10 10.2 of this act, without prior notice or hearing or upon any abbreviated notice or hearing that the
11 agency finds practical because adherence to the notice and hearing requirements would be
12 contrary to the public interest and that the immediate adoption of the rule is required by a serious
13 and unforeseen threat to the public health or safety. The Medical Care Commission is further
14 authorized to adopt temporary or permanent rules as described in G.S. 122C-35(i), enacted by
15 Section 10.2 of this act.

16 **SECTION 10.4.** Section 10.3 of this act is effective when it becomes law. Section
17 10.1 and Section 10.2 of this act become effective on the effective date of the emergency rules
18 adopted by the Medical Care Commission in accordance with Section 10.3 of this act. The
19 Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services shall notify the Revisor of Statutes
20 of the effective date of the emergency rules adopted by the Medical Care Commission.

21 **PART XI. ADD GABAPENTIN TO CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE REPORTING** 22 **SYSTEM**

23 **SECTION 11.1.** G.S. 90-113.73(b) reads as rewritten:

24 (b) The Commission shall adopt rules requiring dispensers to report the following
25 information. The Commission may modify these requirements as necessary to carry out the
26 purposes of this Article. The dispenser shall report:

- 27 (1) The dispenser's DEA ~~number~~ number for prescriptions of controlled
28 substances, and for prescriptions of gabapentin, whether the dispenser has a
29 DEA number.
30 (2) The name of the patient for whom the controlled substance is being dispensed,
31 and the patient's:
32 a. Full address, including city, state, and zip code.
33 b. Telephone number.
34 c. Date of birth.
35 (3) The date the prescription was written.
36 (4) The date the prescription was filled.
37 (5) The prescription number.
38 (6) Whether the prescription is new or a refill.
39 (7) ~~Metric~~ The metric quantity of the dispensed drug.
40 (8) ~~Estimated~~ The estimated days of supply of dispensed drug, if provided to the
41 dispenser.
42 (9) The National Drug Code of dispensed drug.
43 (10) ~~Prescriber's DEA number.~~ The prescriber's DEA number for prescriptions of
44 controlled substances, and for prescriptions of gabapentin, if the prescriber
45 has a DEA number and the number is known by the dispenser.
46 (10a) ~~Prescriber's~~ The prescriber's national provider identification number, for any
47 prescriber that has a national provider identification number. A pharmacy
48 shall not be subject to a civil penalty under subsection (e) of this section for
49 failure to report the prescriber's national provider identification number when
50 it is not received by the pharmacy.
51

(11) ~~Method~~ The method of payment for the prescription."

SECTION 11.2. G.S. 90-113.73(c) reads as rewritten:

"(c) A dispenser shall not be required to report instances in which a controlled ~~substance~~ substance, or gabapentin, is provided directly to the ultimate user and the quantity provided does not exceed a 48-hour supply."

SECTION 11.3. G.S. 90-113.73(f) reads as rewritten:

"(f) For purposes of this section, a "dispenser" includes a person licensed to practice veterinary medicine pursuant to Article 11 of Chapter 90 of the General Statutes when that person dispenses any Schedule II through V controlled ~~substances~~ substance or gabapentin. Notwithstanding subsection (b) of this section, the Commission shall adopt rules requiring the information to be reported by a person licensed to practice veterinary medicine pursuant to Article 11 of Chapter 90 of the General Statutes."

SECTION 11.4. Section 11.1 and Section 11.2 of this act become effective January 1, 2024. Section 11.3 of this act becomes effective January 1, 2025.

PART XII. REQUIRE ELECTRONIC PRESCRIBING OF CODEINE COUGH SYRUP

SECTION 12.1. G.S. 90-106 reads as rewritten:

"§ 90-106. Prescriptions and labeling.

...

(a1) **Electronic Prescription Required; Exceptions.** – Unless otherwise exempted by this subsection, a practitioner shall electronically prescribe all targeted controlled ~~substances~~ substances and all controlled substances included in G.S. 90-93(a)(1)a. This subsection does not apply to prescriptions for targeted controlled substances or any controlled substances included in G.S. 90-93(a)(1)a. issued by any of the following:

- (1) A practitioner, other than a pharmacist, who dispenses directly to an ultimate user.
- (2) A practitioner who orders a controlled substance to be administered in a hospital, nursing home, hospice facility, outpatient dialysis facility, or residential care facility, as defined in G.S. 14-32.2(i).
- (3) A practitioner who experiences temporary technological or electrical failure or other extenuating circumstance that prevents the prescription from being transmitted electronically. The practitioner, however, shall document the reason for this exception in the patient's medical record.
- (4) A practitioner who writes a prescription to be dispensed by a pharmacy located on federal property. The practitioner, however, shall document the reason for this exception in the patient's medical record.
- (5) A person licensed to practice veterinary medicine pursuant to Article 11 of this Chapter. A person licensed to practice veterinary medicine pursuant to Article 11 of this Chapter may continue to prescribe targeted controlled substances from valid written, oral, or facsimile prescriptions that are otherwise consistent with applicable laws.

(a2) **Verification by Dispenser Not Required.** – A dispenser is not required to verify that a practitioner properly falls under one of the exceptions specified in subsection (a1) of this section prior to dispensing a targeted controlled ~~substance~~ substance or a controlled substance included in G.S. 90-93(a)(1)a. A dispenser may continue to dispense targeted controlled substances and controlled substances included in G.S. 90-93(a)(1)a. from valid written, oral, or facsimile prescriptions that are otherwise consistent with applicable laws.

...."

SECTION 12.2. This section becomes effective January 1, 2024.

PART XIII. OVER-THE-COUNTER OPIOID ANTAGONIST TREATMENT

1 **SECTION 13.1.** G.S. 90-12.7 reads as rewritten:

2 "**§ 90-12.7. Treatment of overdose with opioid antagonist; immunity.**

3 (a) As used in this section, "opioid antagonist" means naloxone hydrochloride that is
4 approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration for the treatment of a drug overdose.

5 (b) The following individuals may prescribe an opioid antagonist in the manner
6 prescribed by this subsection:

7 (1) A practitioner acting in good faith and exercising reasonable care may directly
8 or by standing order prescribe an opioid antagonist to (i) a person at risk of
9 experiencing an opiate-related overdose or (ii) a family member, friend, or
10 other person in a position to assist a person at risk of experiencing an
11 opiate-related overdose. As an indicator of good faith, the practitioner, prior
12 to prescribing an opioid under this subsection, may require receipt of a written
13 communication that provides a factual basis for a reasonable conclusion as to
14 either of the following:

15 a. The person seeking the opioid antagonist is at risk of experiencing an
16 opiate-related overdose.

17 b. The person other than the person who is at risk of experiencing an
18 opiate-related overdose, and who is seeking the opioid antagonist, is
19 in relation to the person at risk of experiencing an opiate-related
20 overdose:

21 1. A family member, friend, or other person.

22 2. In the position to assist a person at risk of experiencing an
23 opiate-related overdose.

24 (2) The State Health Director or a designee may prescribe an opioid antagonist
25 pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection by means of a statewide standing
26 order.

27 (3) A practitioner acting in good faith and exercising reasonable care may directly
28 or by standing order prescribe an opioid antagonist to any governmental or
29 nongovernmental organization, including a local health department, a law
30 enforcement agency, or an organization that promotes scientifically proven
31 ways of mitigating health risks associated with substance use disorders and
32 other high-risk behaviors, for the purpose of distributing, through its agents,
33 the opioid antagonist to (i) a person at risk of experiencing an opiate-related
34 overdose or (ii) a family member, friend, or other person in a position to assist
35 a person at risk of experiencing an opiate-related overdose.

36 (c) A pharmacist may dispense an opioid antagonist to a person or organization pursuant
37 to a prescription issued in accordance with subsection (b) of this section. For purposes of this
38 section, the term "pharmacist" is as defined in G.S. 90-85.3.

39 (c1) A governmental or nongovernmental organization, including a local health
40 department, a law enforcement agency, or an organization that promotes scientifically proven
41 ways of mitigating health risks associated with substance use disorders and other high-risk
42 behaviors may, through its agents, distribute an opioid antagonist obtained pursuant to a
43 prescription issued in accordance with subdivision (3) of subsection (b) of this section or obtained
44 over-the-counter to (i) a person at risk of experiencing an opiate-related overdose or (ii) a family
45 member, friend, or other person in a position to assist a person at risk of experiencing an
46 opiate-related overdose. An organization, through its agents, shall include with any distribution
47 of an opioid antagonist pursuant to this subsection basic instruction and information on how to
48 administer the opioid antagonist.

49 (d) A person who receives an opioid antagonist that was prescribed pursuant to
50 subsection (b) of this section or distributed pursuant to subsection (c1) of this section or obtained
51 over-the-counter may administer an opioid antagonist to another person if (i) the person has a

1 good faith belief that the other person is experiencing a drug-related overdose and (ii) the person
2 exercises reasonable care in administering the drug to the other person. Evidence of the use of
3 reasonable care in administering the drug shall include the receipt of basic instruction and
4 information on how to administer the opioid antagonist.

5 (e) All of the following individuals are immune from any civil or criminal liability for
6 actions authorized by this section:

- 7 (1) Any practitioner who prescribes an opioid antagonist pursuant to subsection
8 (b) of this section.
- 9 (2) Any pharmacist who dispenses an opioid antagonist pursuant to subsection (c)
10 of this section.
- 11 (3) Any person who administers an opioid antagonist pursuant to subsection (d)
12 of this section.
- 13 (4) The State Health Director acting pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.
- 14 (5) Any organization, or agent of the organization, that distributes an opioid
15 antagonist pursuant to subsection (c1) of this section."

16 **SECTION 13.2.** This section is effective when it becomes law.

17
18 **PART XIV. EFFECTIVE DATE**

19 **SECTION 14.1.** Except as otherwise provided, this act is effective when it becomes
20 law.