

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1993

H

1

HOUSE BILL 1217

Short Title: Infant Mortality Funds.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Diamont; Bowman, DeVane, Esposito, H. Hunter, McLaughlin, Nesbitt, Redwine, and Wainwright.

Referred to: Appropriations.

April 29, 1993

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR INFANT MORTALITY AND CHILD HEALTH INITIATIVES.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources, Division of Maternal and Child Health, the sum of one million three hundred ninety-two thousand eight hundred eighty-nine dollars (\$1,392,889) for the 1993-94 fiscal year and the sum of one million three hundred ninety-two thousand eight hundred eighty-nine dollars (\$1,392,889) for the 1994-95 fiscal year to replace lost federal maternal and child health funds. The funds appropriated under this section shall be used for maternal and child health programs provided by local health departments, high-risk clinics, professional education and training, consultation, and technical assistance.

Sec. 2. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources, Division of Maternal and Child Health, the sum of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) for the 1993-94 fiscal year and the sum of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) for the 1994-95 fiscal year to expand general women's preventive health services through local health departments. Funds appropriated under this section shall be used to supplement and not supplant existing funds available for this purpose.

Sec. 3. (a) There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources, Division of Maternal and Child Health, the sum of seven hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$750,000) for the 1993-94 fiscal year

1 and the sum of one million five hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000) for the 1994-95
2 fiscal year to expand the existing Comprehensive Adolescent Health Projects. Ten
3 additional grants will be available to be awarded each year of the biennium. To receive
4 funding, each project must arrange for or provide preventive and primary medical care
5 and mental health services, including but not limited to: preventive services to delay
6 early sexual involvement, treatment of minor problems and injuries, referrals and
7 follow-up treatments for serious illnesses and injuries, referrals for alcohol and other
8 drug abuse, sexually transmitted diseases, and immunizations. The Comprehensive
9 Adolescent Health Care Projects shall be developed with the participation of the public
10 schools, local health departments, area mental health programs, community migrant and
11 rural health centers, private physicians, and other appropriate community programs.

12 (b) There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
13 Environment, Health, and Natural Resources, Division of Maternal and Child Health,
14 the sum of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) for the 1993-94 fiscal year and the sum of
15 fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) for the 1994-95 fiscal year to contract with the
16 University of North Carolina Center on Early Adolescence to provide technical
17 assistance to and evaluate existing adolescent health care clinics and to assist other
18 counties in developing adolescent health care services.

19 Sec. 3.1. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
20 Environment, Health, and Natural Resources, Division of Maternal and Child Health,
21 the sum of two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) for the 1993-94 fiscal year
22 and the sum of two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) for the 1994-95 fiscal
23 year to provide an ongoing source of funding for 12 local project agencies, 20 full-time
24 maternal outreach workers, and one consultant position for the Baby Love program in
25 fiscal year 1993-94, and to fund an additional 12 local project agencies, 20 full-time
26 maternal outreach workers, and a second consultant for the Baby Love program in fiscal
27 year 1994-95.

28 Sec. 4. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the N.C. Coalition on
29 Adolescent Pregnancy the sum of two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) for the
30 1993-94 fiscal year and the sum of two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) for
31 the 1994-95 fiscal year as a grant-in-aid to provide technical assistance to local
32 adolescent pregnancy prevention projects in reducing the high incidence of infant
33 mortality resulting from low-birth-weight babies born to adolescents; to conduct
34 research and data collection about effective pregnancy prevention initiatives; to provide
35 services, training programs, and resources to school systems in developing effective
36 family life education curricula; and to conduct a statewide media campaign to reduce
37 pregnancy and promote healthy behavior, aimed at children between ages 10 and 14,
38 including Medicaid-eligible children.

39 Sec. 5. (a) Effective October 1, 1993, the Department of Human Resources,
40 Division of Medical Assistance, shall provide medical coverage for parenting education
41 for all Medicaid-eligible families with children from birth to three years of age.

42 (b) There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Human
43 Resources, Division of Medical Assistance, the sum of three hundred seventy-eight
44 thousand dollars (\$378,000) for the 1993-94 fiscal year and the sum of five hundred

1 four thousand dollars (\$504,000) for the 1994-95 fiscal year to provide the State share
2 of the increased coverage for services mandated by this section.

3 Sec. 6. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
4 Human Resources, Division of Medical Assistance, the sum of seventy-five thousand
5 dollars (\$75,000) for the 1993-94 fiscal year and the sum of one hundred thousand
6 dollars (\$100,000) for the 1994-95 fiscal year to develop public education materials and
7 a toll-free hotline to inform Medicaid-eligible families with children about the Healthy
8 Children and Teens program, and about the availability of providers who accept
9 Medicaid.

10 Sec. 7. (a) There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
11 Human Resources, Division of Social Services, the sum of six hundred thirty-three
12 thousand seven hundred nine dollars (\$633,709) for the 1993-94 fiscal year and the sum
13 of six hundred thirty-three thousand seven hundred nine dollars (\$633,709) for the
14 1994-95 fiscal year to be used to expand the Adolescent Parenting Program. Of the
15 funds appropriated under this section, the sum of one hundred sixty thousand dollars
16 (\$160,000) shall be used to increase funding to the existing Adolescent Parenting
17 Program, and the sum of four hundred sixty thousand seventy-five dollars (\$460,075)
18 shall be used to provide grants to an additional 11 local adolescent parenting programs.

19 (b) Program funds may be used for staff salaries, support services for participants
20 in the program, in-home parenting services, resource materials, technical assistance, and
21 assistance with annual evaluations.

22 (c) In order to qualify for an Adolescent Parenting Program grant, the local
23 program must be able to demonstrate that: (i) it does not duplicate efforts with other
24 programs in the county, (ii) it has a system to conduct an annual evaluation of the
25 outcome and impact of the program, and (iii) it will provide the local county matching
26 funds.

27 (d) Nonprofit agencies, departments of social services, and public schools shall
28 be eligible to apply for these funds.

29 (e) The Department of Human Resources, Division of Social Services shall
30 provide opportunities for male involvement in adolescent parenting programs. These
31 programs shall be designed to promote teen parenting responsibilities for young, single
32 fathers ages 15-23, and shall include, but not be limited to: vocational training, job
33 placement, assistance in completing high school education or equivalency, individual
34 counseling, and parenting skills classes.

35 (f) The Department of Human Resources, Division of Social Services shall
36 develop a community advisory group to oversee adolescent parenting programs. The
37 advisory group shall include representatives from the Department of Human Resources,
38 Division of Social Services, Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and
39 Substance Abuse Services; the Department of Environment, Health, and Natural
40 Resources, Division of Maternal and Child Health; and other nonprofit agencies that
41 work with teen pregnancy prevention or at-risk students.

42 Sec. 8. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Governor's
43 Commission on the Reduction of Infant Mortality the sum of one hundred thousand
44 dollars (\$100,000) for the 1993-94 fiscal year to contract with outside evaluators to

1 determine the extent to which the public and private health, social services and mental
2 health, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse services systems in each county
3 meet the health needs of pregnant women and infants up to age one, and of children
4 ages one to five. The study shall include, but not be limited to: an examination of the
5 percentage of pregnant women in each county that receive early and continuous prenatal
6 care; the extent to which eligible pregnant women, infants, and children are receiving
7 nutritional supplements, case management and other necessary health, social, mental
8 health, and other support services; and the extent to which children are receiving age
9 appropriate immunizations. The study shall determine what barriers, if any, exist in
10 each county which prevent pregnant women, infants, and children under the age of five
11 from receiving timely and necessary health services. The Governor's Commission on
12 the Reduction of Infant Mortality shall report its findings to the General Assembly on or
13 before May 15, 1994.

14 Sec. 9. (a) The Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources
15 shall prepare a plan to ensure that local health departments are providing or arranging
16 for the services necessary to meet the health care needs of pregnant women, infants, and
17 children under age five. The plan shall include a description of rules, policies, and
18 procedures, and any changes in State law, necessary to:

- 19 (1) Identify counties in which excessive infant and child morbidity and
20 mortality exist;
- 21 (2) Provide local health departments in these identified counties with
22 assistance in developing and implementing improvement plans; and
- 23 (3) Ensure that these local health departments meet appropriate
24 improvement goals.

25 In order to ensure that improvement goals are met, the Department's plan
26 shall include a compliance system. The compliance system may include: heightened
27 technical assistance; targeting of additional resources; withholding of federal or State
28 funds; administrative changes, including formation of district health departments where
29 appropriate; the appointment of caretaker administrators or public health boards; or any
30 other measure necessary to ensure that the health care needs of pregnant women,
31 infants, and children under age five are being met.

32 (b) The Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources, Division of
33 Maternal and Child Health shall submit this report to the General Assembly no later
34 than May 15, 1994.

35 Sec. 10. This act becomes effective July 1, 1993.