

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**

**SESSION 1999**

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**SENATE BILL 1136**

Short Title: Family Success Initiative/Pilot.

(Public)

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Sponsors: Senators Martin of Guilford; Ballance, Dannelly, Jordan, Kinnaird, Lucas, Phillips, and Purcell.

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Referred to: Appropriations/Base Budget.

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April 15, 1999

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED**

**AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A PILOT PROGRAM TO ASSIST FAMILIES AT CERTAIN INCOME LEVELS WITH CHILDREN PERFORMING BELOW GRADE LEVEL IN IMPROVING FAMILY COHESIVENESS, FUNCTIONING, AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS AND STUDENT ACADEMIC SUCCESS.**

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1.(a) The Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Social Services, shall establish and administer a pilot program to assist families that have children who are performing below school grade level in strengthening family cohesiveness, functioning, and economic progress and improving the academic performance of their children. The pilot program shall be developed and implemented no later than August 1, 2000, as follows:

- (1) Each pilot program shall be family-focused and designed to improve family success in addressing issues pertaining to:
  - a. Family functioning and economic progress;
  - b. Academic success for children in the family in a manner that reduces the likelihood that the children will have a life of poverty; and
  - c. Strengthening the communities in which the family lives.

- 1           (2)    There shall be at least eight pilot programs initially established which  
2           shall be based on components of successful models and concepts. Any  
3           nonprofit, tax-exempt organization or local government agency that is  
4           part of the collaborative effort to develop the pilot program may serve  
5           as the lead agency in applying for and administering grant funds.
- 6           (3)    Families eligible for participation in a pilot program shall be those  
7           families:  
8           a.     Whose income is below two hundred percent (200%) of the  
9           federal poverty level;  
10          b.     Who have at least one child in elementary or middle school who  
11          is performing academically at least one year below the child's  
12          grade level; and  
13          c.     At least one adult member of which agrees to participate in the  
14          program and in a culturally appropriate assessment of family  
15          functioning.
- 16          (4)    The Department and other entities collaborating to develop the pilot  
17          program shall identify resources currently available to address the  
18          concerns of below-grade-level academic performance and problems  
19          related to family cohesiveness, functioning, and family economic  
20          progress, and shall strive to harness these resources in a manner that  
21          increases effectiveness and reduces overall costs of the pilot program.  
22          The Department shall also determine which entities can best operate  
23          which components of the total pilot program, and how those entities can  
24          contribute to the abilities of others to be more successful in operating  
25          their components.
- 26          (5)    The Department may obtain the services of consultants in the planning,  
27          coordination, implementation, and evaluation of the pilot program.
- 28          (6)    The Department of Health and Human Services shall establish a task  
29          force to collaborate with and advise the Department on the development  
30          and implementation of the pilot program. The task force shall consist  
31          of, at a minimum, representatives of:  
32          a.     The Department of Public Instruction;  
33          b.     The Employment Security Commission;  
34          c.     The Cooperative Extension Services at North Carolina  
35          Agricultural and Technical State University and at North  
36          Carolina State University;  
37          d.     The Office of Juvenile Justice;  
38          e.     Workforce Development Boards;  
39          f.     Local education agencies;  
40          g.     Local departments or boards of social services, county  
41          commissioners, and health departments;  
42          h.     Community-based organizations, specifically those that work  
43          within low-income communities; and

- 1 i. Religious organizations or institutions.
- 2 (7) Each of the eight pilot programs shall have comparable structures for  
3 administration, advice, and technical assistance.
- 4 (8) Each pilot program shall be developed in a way that results in  
5 observable and measureable outcomes and that are subject to sound  
6 evaluation techniques. Evaluation measures and techniques shall be  
7 designed and implemented to:
- 8 a. Demonstrate what about the pilot works, what about it does not  
9 work, and reasons that the component works or does not;
- 10 b. Recommend systemic changes through integration of positive  
11 outcomes; and
- 12 c. Produce outcomes that, if successful, can be replicated.
- 13 (9) On or before December 1, 1999, the Department shall present a progress  
14 report to each of the Joint Appropriations Committees or  
15 Subcommittees on Health and Human Services, Natural and Economic  
16 Resources, and Education/Higher Education. On or before May 15,  
17 2000, the Department shall submit a report containing final  
18 recommendations on the implementation of the pilots, including:
- 19 a. Pilot sites selected;
- 20 b. Identification of evaluation tools; and
- 21 c. Identification of resources to be used in implementing and  
22 evaluating the pilot programs.

23 Section 1.(b) There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department  
24 of Health and Human Services, Division of Social Services, the sum of two hundred fifty  
25 thousand dollars (\$250,000) for planning and initial implementation of the pilot program  
26 authorized under this section. The Department of Health and Human Services, the  
27 Department of Commerce, the Department of Public Instruction, and the Employment  
28 Security Commission shall allocate block grant funds that are available for the purposes  
29 for which the pilot programs are implemented to supplement State funds appropriated for  
30 the planning, full implementation, and evaluation of the pilot programs.

31 Section 2. This act becomes effective July 1, 1999.