

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2009**

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SENATE BILL 1306*

Short Title: Pilot Independent Assessments by LMEs. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Nesbitt; and Atwater.

Referred to: Health Care.

May 20, 2010

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
3 DIVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH, DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES, AND
4 SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES, TO IMPLEMENT A PILOT PROJECT TO
5 EVALUATE THE COST AND PROGRAM EFFICACY OF INDEPENDENT
6 ASSESSMENTS FOR INTEGRATED PROGRAM AND REPORTING SYSTEM
7 ENHANCED SERVICES AND MEDICAID ENHANCED SERVICES.

8 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

9 **SECTION 1.(a)** The Department of Health and Human Services, Division of
10 Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services, shall establish a
11 pilot project within four local management entities (LMEs) for the purpose of evaluating the
12 cost and program efficacy of conducting independent assessments of individuals seeking or
13 receiving services provided through LMEs, in order to determine their eligibility and need for
14 Integrated Program and Reporting System (IPRS) enhanced services and Medicaid enhanced
15 services. The Department shall select the four participating LMEs as follows:

- 16 (1) The Department shall select at least one LME with utilization management
17 responsibilities and at least one LME without utilization management
18 responsibilities. The two LMEs selected pursuant to this subdivision shall
19 establish a process for assessing individuals seeking or receiving IPRS
20 enhanced services or Medicaid enhanced services provided through the
21 LMEs that is independent of the delivery of those services.
22 (2) The Department shall select two additional LMEs, one with utilization
23 management responsibilities and one without utilization management
24 responsibilities, that are comparable to the first two LMEs selected pursuant
25 to subdivision (1) of this subsection in population, demographics, location,
26 and number of individuals currently enrolled in IPRS enhanced services or
27 Medicaid services. The LMEs selected pursuant to this subdivision shall
28 assess individuals seeking or receiving IPRS enhanced services or Medicaid
29 enhanced services provided through the LMEs without regard to whether the
30 professional conducting the assessment is independent from the delivery of
31 those services.

32 All assessments conducted by LMEs participating in the pilot project should be as
33 close to identical as possible, except for the independence of the professional conducting the
34 assessment.

35 **SECTION 1.(b)** The Department shall submit to the Joint Legislative Oversight
36 Committee on Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services an
37 interim report on the implementation plan for the pilot project authorized by Section 1(a) of this



1 act by October 1, 2010, and a final report on the pilot project by October 1, 2011. In addition to
2 the Department's findings and recommendations, the final report shall include all of the
3 following information:

- 4 (1) The number of clients assessed at each project site.
- 5 (2) The number of persons recommended for IPRS enhanced services or
6 Medicaid enhanced services at each project site, along with a listing of those
7 services.
- 8 (3) Any costs associated with independent assessment, broken down by each
9 project site.
- 10 (4) Comparative data on utilization of IPRS enhanced services and Medicaid
11 enhanced services at project sites conducting independent assessments and
12 project sites conducting nonindependent assessments.
- 13 (5) Comparative costs among the four project sites.

14 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law.