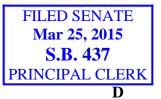
## GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA SESSION 2015



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## SENATE DRS45182-MGa-61A (03/03)

Short Title:	Appropriate Funds for Poison Control.	(Public)
Sponsors:	Senator Tucker (Primary Sponsor).	
Referred to:		

1	A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2	AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN
3	SERVICES, DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH, TO PROVIDE STATEWIDE POISON
4	CONTROL SERVICES THROUGH THE CAROLINAS POISON CENTER.
5	Whereas, deaths from drug overdose have been steadily rising over the past decade
6	and have become the leading cause of injury deaths in the United States; and
7	Whereas, the Carolinas Poison Center (the Center) has provided high-quality,
8	cost-efficient services to the citizens of North Carolina since 1996 by serving as the State's
9	poison control center providing a first line of detection for poisonings involving
10	pharmaceuticals, food, and agriculture products, as well as gases and other toxins; and
11	Whereas, the Center provides a level of security in its tracking and monitoring of
12	reported poisonings that are shared with both federal and State agencies in a real-time
13	environment; and
14	Whereas, in late 2014, the Center was able to establish a help line for citizens to
15	address questions about Ebola within three hours of receiving this request from the Executive
16	Branch; and
17	Whereas, the Center took more than 500 calls from the public in two different
18	languages related to information about potential exposure to Ebola; and
19	Whereas, the Center has managed nearly 490,000 patients in a low-cost setting over
20	the past five years from every county in North Carolina; and
21	Whereas, three out of every four calls are managed at the caller site at no cost to the
22	patient or to a government or private insurer; and
23	Whereas, the Center saves the State nearly \$8,000,000 annually by averting
24	unnecessary calls to 911 and unnecessary visits to urgent care centers, emergency rooms, and
25	physician offices; and
26 27	Whereas, the Center receives approximately \$530,000 per year in federal funds that
27	are in jeopardy and subject to maintenance of effort requirements imposed on the State; and Whereas, administering a State poison control center is a responsibility and function
28 29	of state government; and
29 30	Whereas, the Center's existence as North Carolina's poison control center, Ebola
31	resource center, and a critical public safety surveillance tool at the State's disposal is in
32	jeopardy without adequate State funding; and
33	Whereas, the amount of funding necessary to meet the State's obligation is short by
34	\$1,500,000; Now, therefore,
35	The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:
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## **General Assembly of North Carolina**

**SECTION 1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health, the sum of one million five hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000) for the 2015-2016 fiscal year and the sum of one million five hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000) for the 2016-2017 fiscal year. These funds shall be used to increase the State contract with the Carolinas Poison Center, the designated poison center for North Carolina operated by Carolinas Medical Center.

7 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2015.