

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1993

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HOUSE BILL 534

Short Title: Adolescent Pregnancy Prev. Funds.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representatives H. Hunter; Berry, Cummings, Hensley, McLawhorn, and Wainwright.

Referred to: Appropriations.

March 25, 1993

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO DEVELOP COMPREHENSIVE,
2 COORDINATED ADOLESCENT PREGNANCY PREVENTION INITIATIVES.
3

4 Whereas, a 1992 report from the Southern Regional Project on Infant
5 Mortality indicates that North Carolina has had a 96% increase in the public costs
6 associated with teenage childbearing; and

7 Whereas, in North Carolina, the public cost for AFDC, Medicaid, and Food
8 Stamps programs associated with teenage childbearing was \$457,000,000 in 1991; and
9 for every dollar spent on teenage childbearing only 1¢ is spent on primary prevention;
10 and

11 Whereas, the North Carolina Coalition on Adolescent Pregnancy has been
12 conducting research on pregnancy prevention initiatives, providing training to
13 professionals and volunteers involved in prevention efforts, and providing technical
14 assistance to communities throughout North Carolina, and is the only organization
15 engaged in statewide initiatives to prevent teenage pregnancies; and

16 Whereas, current research emphasizes the necessity for prevention action
17 targeted at adolescent males, yet only three of the 34 Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention
18 projects funded by the Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources are
19 designed primarily for male involvement in the prevention of teenage pregnancy; and

20 Whereas, the Adolescent Parenting Program administered by the Department
21 of Human Resources is designed to assist first-time adolescent parents 17 years of age
22 or younger and funds have not been increased since the inception of the program in

1 1984 and counties are having to channel much more than the 25% required match to
2 keep the projects viable; and

3 Whereas, two national studies indicate that over 60% of teen mothers have
4 been sexually abused when they were children; and

5 Whereas, the Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Program in the Department of
6 Environment, Health, and Natural Resources is the only State-funded program directed
7 toward primary prevention of adolescent pregnancy and intervention; and

8 Whereas, there is a need for a more comprehensive, coordinated statewide
9 approach to the prevention of adolescent pregnancy; Now, therefore,
10 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

11 Section 1. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the North Carolina
12 Coalition on Adolescent Pregnancy the sum of two hundred fifty thousand dollars
13 (\$250,000) for the 1993-94 fiscal year and two hundred fifty thousand dollars
14 (\$250,000) for the 1994-95 fiscal year, to:

15 (1) Expand the statewide services the North Carolina Coalition on
16 Adolescent Pregnancy is now providing by extending the Coalition's
17 capability to provide assistance, resources, prevention strategies, and
18 local pregnancy prevention council development to counties that do
19 not currently have this assistance and to agencies and organizations
20 involved in prevention;

21 (2) Conduct research and data collection that provide information on
22 effective pregnancy prevention initiatives and the impact of prevention
23 efforts, and disseminate pertinent facts and research to public officials,
24 other decision makers, and to professionals and volunteers working
25 with pregnancy prevention programs or with, or on behalf of, pregnant
26 and parenting teens;

27 (3) Provide services, training programs, and resources to school systems in
28 developing effective pregnancy prevention curricula and develop a
29 teacher training institute to train teachers on how to effectively
30 implement the pregnancy prevention curricula for the greatest impact,
31 and provide measures by which parents can effectively and
32 appropriately be involved;

33 (4) Initiate a statewide media campaign to promote abstinence, reduce
34 pregnancy, and promote healthy behavior in North Carolina's children
35 ages 10 to 14, including Medicaid-eligible children; and

36 (5) Expand training and resources for communities to address sexual
37 abuse and its relationship to adolescent pregnancy.

38 Sec. 2. (a) There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
39 Human Resources the sum of six hundred thirty-three thousand seven hundred nine
40 dollars (\$633,709) for the 1993-94 fiscal year and the sum of six hundred thirty-three
41 thousand seven hundred nine dollars (\$633,709) for the 1994-95 fiscal year to be used
42 to expand the Adolescent Parenting Program in the Division of Social Services. The
43 funds shall be used to provide the following:

- 1 (1) Expansion funds of \$10,000 each to existing adolescent parenting
2 programs in Caldwell, Cleveland, Craven, Cumberland, Durham,
3 Forsyth, Franklin, Gaston, Onslow, Orange, Pasquotank, Pender,
4 Rutherford, Stanly, Union, and Vance;
- 5 (2) Eleven additional grants for local adolescent parenting programs;
- 6 (3) Support services such as day care, transportation, and family planning
7 to participants in the program who are not eligible for AFDC;
- 8 (4) In-home parenting services designed to reduce child abuse and neglect;
- 9 (5) Purchase of resource materials and curricula that are used in the
10 training session with the teenage parents; and
- 11 (6) Expanded State-level oversight, including an interdepartmental
12 advisory group.
- 13 (b) The Department of Human Resources shall:
 - 14 (1) Require applicants to conduct an analysis of current programs within a
15 county to avoid duplication of efforts;
 - 16 (2) Direct local programs to undertake an annual evaluation of the
17 outcome and impact of the program;
 - 18 (3) Assure that the county matches State funds;
 - 19 (4) Allow nonprofit organizations within a county to be eligible to apply
20 for an Adolescent Parenting Program;
 - 21 (5) Expand State-level oversight by establishing an interdepartmental
22 advisory group; and
 - 23 (6) Provide opportunities for male involvement in adolescent pregnancy
24 prevention and promote teen parenting responsibilities for young,
25 single fathers ages 15-23. These opportunities shall include the
26 following: vocational training, job placement, assistance in
27 completing a high school education or its equivalent, individual
28 counseling, and parenting skills classes.

29 Sec. 3. (a) Of the funds appropriated to the Department of Environment,
30 Health, and Natural Resources for the 1993-94 fiscal year and the 1994-95 fiscal year,
31 the sum of eighty thousand dollars (\$80,000) each fiscal year shall be used to fund the
32 overall evaluation of the Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Program as mandated by the
33 General Assembly. The Department shall develop appropriate outcome and impact
34 measures and may require the return of funds from any programs that do not meet their
35 performance standards.

36 (b) Of the funds appropriated to the Department of Environment, Health, and
37 Natural Resources for the 1993-94 fiscal year and the 1994-95 fiscal year for
38 continuation of the Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Program, at least seventy-five
39 percent (75%) each fiscal year shall be used to fund primary pregnancy prevention
40 projects. As of July 1, 1993, any project selected for funding shall include a line item in
41 the proposed budget for the evaluation of the individual project.

42 (c) The Department shall issue a special request during the Adolescent
43 Pregnancy Prevention Program preapplication process in 1993 for proposals that contain

1 relevant and realistic strategies for male involvement in the prevention of adolescent
2 pregnancies.

3 Sec. 4. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
4 Environment, Health, and Natural Resources the sum of seven hundred fifty thousand
5 dollars (\$750,000) for the 1993-94 fiscal year and the sum of one million five hundred
6 thousand dollars (\$1,500,000) for the 1994-95 fiscal year, to expand the Comprehensive
7 Adolescent Health Projects. Ten additional grants shall be available to be awarded each
8 year of the biennium for the purpose of providing preventive, primary care, and mental
9 health services, including preventive services to delay early sexual involvement,
10 treatment of minor problems and injuries, referrals and follow-up of serious illnesses
11 and injuries, and referrals for alcohol and other drug abuse, sexually transmitted
12 diseases, and immunizations. The Comprehensive Adolescent Health Projects shall be
13 developed in cooperation with public schools, health departments, area mental health
14 programs, rural health centers, private physicians, and other appropriate community
15 programs.

16 Sec. 5. This act becomes effective July 1, 1993.