

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2005**

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SENATE BILL 683

Short Title: Funds for Public Health Incubators. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Holloman; Apodaca, Berger of Franklin, Bingham, Cowell, Graham, Hartsell, Jacumin, Jenkins, Kerr, Kinnaird, Malone, Nesbitt, Purcell, Stevens, and Swindell.

Referred to: Appropriations/Base Budget.

March 21, 2005

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO IMPLEMENT FOUR PILOT PROJECTS THAT ESTABLISH VOLUNTARY REGIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH PARTNERSHIPS IN NORTHEASTERN NORTH CAROLINA.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Health and Human Services the sum of two million two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$2,250,000) for the 2005-2006 fiscal year. These funds shall be allocated to the North Carolina Institute for Public Health, School of Public Health at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill to coordinate the development of "public health incubators." One of these incubators shall be comprised of enterprise tier one counties and other counties affiliated with tier one counties through district health departments in northeastern North Carolina. For purposes of this section, "enterprise tier" has the meaning given in G.S. 105-129.2. Core participants in these incubators will be local public health departments in selected underserved regions. Other governmental agencies and nonprofit organizations will also be invited to participate. The funds shall be used to:

- (1) Establish or strengthen the capacity to conduct epidemiological investigation and to actively monitor public health conditions, diseases, and risk factors.
- (2) Establish or strengthen the capacity to monitor health disparities and to develop plans to reduce those disparities.
- (3) Conduct regional community health assessments with the assistance of other members of the public health community including other governmental agencies and nonprofit organizations, to establish partnership health priorities based on these findings, and to draft public health interventions to address the highest health priorities.

- 1 (4) Raise public awareness of the health-related issues in partnership
2 communities, collaborating with members of the larger public health
3 community and with local and State media, reporting health issues to
4 the county commissioners, the boards of health, legislators, at-risk
5 groups, and to the community at large.
- 6 (5) Provide regular, supplemental training to members of the participating
7 boards of health to inform them about their overall responsibilities
8 including their role in policy development, to introduce them to
9 evidence-based best practices in public health with an emphasis on
10 collaborative initiatives, and to update them on emerging public health
11 issues, particularly those that are of greatest concern to their
12 communities.
- 13 (6) Conduct workforce preparedness assessments and follow-on training
14 for the public health workforce in the pilot regions and to establish or
15 supplement policy to facilitate effective responses to public health
16 emergencies where appropriate.
- 17 (7) Assist the accreditation administrator in the review of partnership
18 health departments and to assist in remediation where necessary,
19 through collaborative efforts.
- 20 (8) Establish a formal, systematic review of the incubators to track and
21 evaluate the efficacy of roles, organization, and programs, to identify
22 best practices, and to develop recommendations for improvement
23 based on these findings.

24 **SECTION 2.** The Department of Health and Human Services shall report on
25 the use of these funds and an evaluation of the incubator efforts to the Senate
26 Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services, the House of
27 Representatives Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services, and the
28 Fiscal Research Division. The Department shall submit the report on October 1, 2005,
29 and March 1, 2006.

30 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2005.