

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1993

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SENATE BILL 985

Short Title: Public Health Funds.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senator Cooper.

Referred to: Appropriations.

April 28, 1993

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR ENHANCING THE CAPACITY OF
2 LOCAL BOARDS OF HEALTH TO ENSURE THE EFFICIENT DELIVERY OF
3 PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES.
4

5 Whereas, every county in North Carolina provides public health services; and

6 Whereas, local boards of health are responsible for hiring local health
7 directors, establishing policies and adopting rules necessary to protect and promote the
8 public health; and

9 Whereas, to perform effectively, board of health members need orientation to
10 public health needs, services, legal issues, policy development, and effective
11 governance; and

12 Whereas, in 1990, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation awarded a three-year grant
13 to the Association of North Carolina Boards of Health to establish orientation and
14 training programs for board of health members in North Carolina; and

15 Whereas, 40% of the State's board of health members have attended
16 orientation programs, 10% have attended leadership development programs, and 90%
17 have received some educational service from the Association of North Carolina Boards
18 of Health in the past two years; and

19 Whereas, orientation and educational training increase board of health
20 members' effectiveness in assessing community needs, developing local public health
21 policies, and assuring essential public health services are available; and

22 Whereas, well-informed boards of health are better equipped to successfully
23 incorporate local information and data about their community's health problems into
24 early intervention and preventive health services; and

1 Whereas, knowledgeable boards of health can develop community
2 partnerships and convene community forums to discuss problems and priorities; and

3 Whereas, local boards of health assure that local public health decisions are
4 made in an independent, objective manner; and

5 Whereas, local boards of health are a significant part of North Carolina's
6 strong community-based public health system; and

7 Whereas, the General Assembly created local boards of health to protect and
8 promote the public's health and has a legitimate interest in their capacity to perform
9 these duties; Now, therefore,

10 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

11 Section 1. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
12 Environment, Health, and Natural Resources the sum of two hundred thousand dollars
13 (\$200,000) for the 1993-94 fiscal year and the sum of two hundred thousand dollars
14 (\$200,000) for the 1994-95 fiscal year for allocation to the Association of North
15 Carolina Boards of Health for the purpose of providing continuing board of health
16 orientation, leadership, and educational development programs to local boards of health.

17 Sec. 2. This act becomes effective July 1, 1993.