

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2003

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HOUSE BILL 1560*

Short Title: Osteoporosis Education Program. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Insko, B. Allen (Primary Sponsors); L. Allen, Farmer-Butterfield, Fisher, Glazier, Jones, Luebke, McLawhorn, Parmon, Wainwright, Warren, and Weiss.

Referred to: Health.

May 20, 2004

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1
2 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE OSTEOPOROSIS PREVENTION, TREATMENT,
3 AND DIAGNOSIS PROGRAM IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND
4 HUMAN SERVICES.

5 Whereas, osteoporosis, a bone-weakening disease, is a major public health
6 problem that poses a threat to the health and quality of life for as many as 44 million
7 Americans, 10 million already have the disease and 34 million have osteopenia or low
8 bone mass and are at risk; and

9 Whereas, nearly 1.27 million North Carolinians are estimated to have
10 osteoporosis or osteopenia; and

11 Whereas, osteoporosis is responsible for more than 1.5 million fractures a
12 year, including 300,000 hip fractures, 250,000 wrist fractures, and 300,000 fractures at
13 other sites, which cause pain, disability, immobility, and social isolation; and

14 Whereas, because osteoporosis progresses without symptoms or notice until a
15 fracture occurs, prevention, early diagnosis, and treatment are the key to reducing the
16 prevalence and devastation from this disease; and

17 Whereas, one in two women and one in four men over 50 will have an
18 osteoporosis-related fracture; and

19 Whereas, the estimated national direct expenditures (hospitals and nursing
20 homes) for osteoporotic and associated fractures were \$17 billion in 2001, equaling a
21 cost of \$47 million each day; and

22 Whereas, the medical costs associated with osteoporosis in North Carolina
23 totaled \$455 million in 2002 and are expected to increase to \$514 million by 2005; and

24 Whereas, although a large body of public information exists from various
25 sources about osteoporosis, it is often inadequately disseminated and not tailored to
26 meet the needs of specific population groups; and

