

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2003

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SENATE BILL 615

Short Title: Trauma Center Fee/Study Commn. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Dannelly; Clodfelter, Dorsett, Holloman, Lucas, Malone, Metcalf, Moore, Purcell, and Queen.

Referred to: Finance.

March 31, 2003

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO SUPPORT THE WORK OF TRAUMA CENTERS ACROSS THE STATE THROUGH AN INCREASE IN THE FEE CHARGED FOR RESTORING DRIVERS LICENSES REVOKED FOR ALCOHOL-RELATED OFFENSES; AND TO CREATE THE STATEWIDE TRAUMA SYSTEM STUDY COMMISSION.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.(a)** G.S. 20-16.5(j) reads as rewritten:

"§ 20-16.5. **Immediate civil license revocation for certain persons charged with implied-consent offenses.**

(a) Definitions. – As used in this section the following words and phrases have the following meanings:

...

(j) Costs. – Unless the magistrate or judge orders the revocation rescinded, a person whose license is revoked under this section must pay a fee of fifty-one hundred fifty dollars ~~(\$50.00)~~ (\$150.00) as costs for the action before the person's license may be returned under subsection (h). ~~The~~ Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the costs collected under this section shall be credited to the General Fund. Fifty percent ~~(50%)~~ of the costs Twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) of each fee collected shall be used to fund a statewide chemical alcohol testing program administered by the Injury Control Section of the Department of Health and Human Services. One hundred dollars (\$100.00) of each fee collected shall be credited to a nonreverting account within the Office of Emergency Medical Services of the Division of Facility Services of the Department of Health and Human Services to be used for the development and operation of the statewide trauma system established pursuant to G.S. 131E-162."

**SECTION 1.(b)** Funds credited to the nonreverting account established in G.S. 20-16.5(j), as amended by this act, for the development and operation of the statewide trauma system shall not be used for any other purpose and shall not be

1 expended until the Statewide Trauma System Study Commission, enacted in this act,  
2 has recommended to the General Assembly the most effective method for the regional  
3 distribution of those funds, and the General Assembly has appropriated the funds from  
4 the nonreverting account.

5 **SECTION 2.(a)** Commission established. – There is established the  
6 Statewide Trauma System Study Commission.

7 **SECTION 2.(b)** Membership. – The Commission membership shall be  
8 representative of the different geographical regions of the State and shall include  
9 members from rural areas of the State to the extent practicable. The Commission shall  
10 consist of 21 members, as follows:

11 (1) The President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall appoint eight members:  
12 two members of the Senate, one practicing paramedic, one trauma  
13 center surgeon, one State trauma system regional advisory committee  
14 coordinator, one volunteer fire or rescue worker, one air medical  
15 rescue worker, and one former trauma patient.

16 (2) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint eight  
17 members: two members of the House of Representatives, one trauma  
18 center nurse, one representative of the North Carolina Medical Care  
19 Commission, one career firefighter, one representative of the  
20 American College of Surgeons' Committee on Trauma, one 911 or  
21 other dispatch worker, and one emergency room department director.

22 (3) The Governor shall appoint five members: one representative of the  
23 Office of Emergency Medical Services, one trauma center finance or  
24 operations director, one representative of a law enforcement agency  
25 that is also an EMS first responder, one representative of the State  
26 Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council, and one EMS  
27 administrator or educator.

28 **SECTION 2.(c)** Duties. – The Commission shall study the delivery of  
29 emergency medical services in this State and shall do all of the following:

30 (1) Determine the most effective method for the regional distribution of  
31 funds provided to the Office of Emergency Medical Services through  
32 license restoration fees collected under G.S. 20-16.5(j), and report to  
33 the Joint Legislative Health Care Oversight Committee annually on the  
34 uses of the funding.

35 (2) Analyze impediments to the seamless delivery of care to trauma  
36 victims, including legal, administrative, logistical, and other barriers,  
37 and determine means of streamlining the delivery of improved and  
38 more efficient care.

39 (3) Examine ways of improving the quality and delivery of care to trauma  
40 and emergency victims in terms of transportation, equipment,  
41 education, and personnel needs, as well as the need for additional  
42 trauma centers and improved coordination of existing centers.

43 (4) Examine methods of improving North Carolina's readiness to handle  
44 trauma resulting from massive disasters.

1 (5) Study any other matters related to the delivery of emergency medical  
2 services.

3 **SECTION 2.(d) Reports.** – The Commission shall submit a final written  
4 report of its findings and recommendations to the 2005 General Assembly upon its  
5 convening. The Commission may submit progress reports to the 2003 General  
6 Assembly, Regular Session 2004. The Commission may include in its progress reports  
7 or in its final report recommendations for the best use of funds provided to the Office of  
8 Emergency Medical Services through license restoration fees collected under G.S.  
9 20-16.5(j), as well as any recommendations for further streamlining the delivery of care  
10 through regional trauma systems. The reports shall also include legislative proposals  
11 necessary to implement the Commission's recommendations and an analysis of the  
12 fiscal impact of each recommendation. The Commission shall terminate upon the filing  
13 of its final report.

14 **SECTION 2.(e) Expenses of members.** – Members of the Commission shall  
15 be paid per diem, subsistence, and travel expenses, as follows:

16 (1) Commission members who are members of the General Assembly  
17 shall be paid in accordance with G.S. 120-3.1.

18 (2) Commission members who are officials or employees of the State or  
19 local government agencies shall be paid in accordance with G.S.  
20 138-6.

21 (3) All other Commission members shall be paid in accordance with G.S.  
22 138-5.

23 **SECTION 2.(f) Cochairs; meetings.** – Cochairs of the Commission shall be  
24 designated by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of  
25 Representatives from among their respective appointees. The Commission shall meet  
26 upon the call of the chairs. A majority of the Commission members shall constitute a  
27 quorum. The Commission may meet during a regular or special session of the General  
28 Assembly, subject to the approval of the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the  
29 Speaker of the House of Representatives. The Legislative Services Commission may  
30 provide meeting space to the Commission in the State Legislative Building or in the  
31 Legislative Office Building.

32 **SECTION 2.(g) Staff.** – With the prior approval of the Legislative Services  
33 Commission, the Legislative Services Officer shall assign professional staff to assist in  
34 the work of the Commission.

35 **SECTION 2.(h) Cooperation by government agencies.** – The Commission  
36 may call upon any department, agency, institution, or officer of the State or any political  
37 subdivision of the State for facilities, data, or other assistance. All State departments and  
38 agencies, local governments, and their subdivisions shall cooperate with the  
39 Commission and, upon request, shall furnish the Commission and its staff any  
40 information in their possession or available to them.

41 **SECTION 3.** From funds appropriated to the General Assembly, the  
42 Legislative Services Office shall allocate funds for the expenses of the Commission.

43 **SECTION 4.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2003. Section 1 of this act  
44 applies to fees collected on and after that date.