

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2005**

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**SENATE BILL 801**

Short Title: Funds for Public Health Incubators.

(Public)

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Sponsors: Senators Hartsell; and Bingham.

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Referred to: Appropriations/Base Budget.

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March 23, 2005

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR PUBLIC HEALTH INCUBATORS.

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 five hundred thousand dollars (\$2,500,000) 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 at Chapel Hill to coordinate the development of "public health incubators". 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 provide ongoing public health incubator projects in the four public health incubators currently established at the rate of two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) to each of the four incubators, with the remaining appropriation to be allocated to up to four additional regional public health incubators selected by a selection committee. The selection committee shall consist of a representative of the North Carolina Association of Local Health Directors, a representative of the North Carolina Public Health Association, two representatives from each currently funded public health incubator, a representative of the Division of Public Health of the Department of Health and Human Services, and two representatives from the North Carolina Institute for Public Health. The North Carolina Institute for Public Health may use up to two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) for special projects and administrative expenses. 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.

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

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

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