

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007**

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SENATE BILL 485

Short Title: Premarital Counseling Pilot Funds. (Public)

Sponsors: Senator Hoyle.

Referred to: Appropriations/Base Budget.

March 6, 2007

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO ESTABLISH A PILOT PROGRAM
2 EVALUATING THE NEED TO REQUIRE PERSONS DESIRING TO MARRY
3 ONE ANOTHER TO RECEIVE PREMARITAL COUNSELING BEFORE THE
4 MARRIAGE IS SOLEMNIZED BY A MAGISTRATE.
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6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 **SECTION 1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Judicial
8 Department the sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) for the 2007-2008
9 fiscal year to be allocated equally between First Things First of Gaston County and the
10 Family Life Council in Guilford County to establish a pilot program in Gaston and
11 Guilford Counties to evaluate whether persons desiring to marry one another should be
12 required to receive premarital counseling before the marriage is solemnized by a
13 magistrate in an effort to reduce the divorce rate in North Carolina. The pilot program
14 shall evaluate the notice requirements needed to inform persons desiring to solemnize
15 their marriage before a magistrate of the premarital counseling requirement. The
16 Administrative Office of the Courts shall work in conjunction with First Things First of
17 Gaston County and the Family Life Council in Guilford County to implement the pilot
18 program by October 1, 2007. Magistrates in Gaston and Guilford Counties are
19 encouraged to participate in the pilot program. The Administrative Office of the Courts
20 shall report the findings and recommendations of the pilot program to the 2009 General
21 Assembly.

22 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2007.