

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2009**

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**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 2084**

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Sponsors: Representatives Insko; and Gill.

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Referred to: Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House.

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July 8, 2010

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH COMMISSION  
2 TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY AND COST-EFFECTIVENESS OF ESTABLISHING A  
3 STATEWIDE SUPPORTIVE HOUSING INITIATIVE FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH  
4 MENTAL HEALTH, DEVELOPMENTAL, OR SUBSTANCE ABUSE DISABILITIES.

5 Whereas, individuals with mental health, developmental, or substance abuse  
6 disabilities often have multiple barriers to appropriate and stable housing and employment; and

7 Whereas, these individuals can successfully live in the community with the proper  
8 services and supports; and

9 Whereas, studies have shown that supportive housing leads to improved functioning  
10 in individuals with mental health, developmental, or substance abuse disabilities, and also leads  
11 to reduced emergency room visits and hospitalizations, increased use of appropriate services,  
12 and increased satisfaction with overall quality of life, including for individuals with significant  
13 mental health, developmental, or substance abuse disabilities; and

14 Whereas, stable employment is a critical factor in an individual's ability to succeed  
15 in a community setting; and

16 Whereas, supportive housing initiatives tend to increase an individual's participation  
17 in work and employment services; and

18 Whereas, the costs of creating and operating supportive housing are offset by  
19 savings in other public systems; Now, therefore,

20 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

21 **SECTION 1.(a)** The Legislative Research Commission shall study the feasibility  
22 and cost-effectiveness of establishing a statewide supportive housing initiative for individuals  
23 with mental health, developmental, or substance abuse disabilities. The study shall examine  
24 whether this type of initiative could achieve each of the following goals with respect to this  
25 population:

- 26 (1) Fewer emergency room visits and hospital admissions.
- 27 (2) Fewer and shorter stays in psychiatric hospitals.
- 28 (3) Improved treatment outcomes and overall quality of life.
- 29 (4) Improved levels of functioning within the community setting.
- 30 (5) Expanded funding resources for necessary and appropriate treatment,  
31 through Medicaid and other available sources.
- 32 (6) Decreased arrest, incarceration, and recidivism rates.
- 33 (7) Decreased rates of homelessness.
- 34 (8) Improved safety within the community setting for both clients and the  
35 public.
- 36 (9) Decreased rates of unemployment and improved supports for maintaining  
37 employment consistent with individual preferences and skills.



1           **SECTION 1.(b)** The Legislative Research Commission shall report its findings  
2 and recommendations, including any proposals for legislation or administrative action, to the  
3 General Assembly no later than April 1, 2011. The Commission shall address all of the  
4 following in its findings and recommendations:

- 5           (1) A recommendation as to whether and how a statewide supportive housing  
6 initiative could achieve each of the goals referenced in subdivisions (1)  
7 through (9) of subsection (a) of this section.
- 8           (2) The number of supportive housing units that would be necessary for  
9 successful implementation of a statewide supportive housing initiative in  
10 North Carolina.
- 11           (3) The amount of capital investment that would be necessary for initiating and  
12 maintaining a statewide supportive housing initiative.
- 13           (4) Different funding resources that could be used to pay for ongoing  
14 operational costs of a statewide supportive housing initiative.
- 15           (5) The potential cost-savings to be achieved by the State through  
16 implementation of a statewide supportive housing initiative.

17           **SECTION 2.** This resolution is effective upon ratification.