

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1991

S

1

SENATE BILL 878\*

Short Title: Infant Mortality Funds.

(Public)

---

Sponsors: Senators Walker; Allran, Ballance, Barnes, Basnight, Blackmon, Block, Bryan, Carpenter, Carter, Cochran, Conder, Cooper, Daniel, Daughtry, Forrester, Goldston, Hartsell, Hunt, Hyde, Johnson, Kaplan, Kincaid, Lee, Martin of Pitt, Martin of Guilford, Marvin, Murphy, Parnell, Perdue, Plexico, Plyler, Pollard, Raynor, Richardson, Royall, Sands, Seymour, Shaw, Sherron, Simpson, Smith, Soles, Speed, Staton, Tally, Ward, Warren, and Winner.

---

Referred to: Appropriations.

---

May 8, 1991

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO VARIOUS STATE AND NON-STATE ENTITIES TO ADDRESS THE INFANT MORTALITY PROBLEM.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1. (a) The Department of Human Resources, Division of Medical Assistance, shall provide medical coverage for nutritional counseling, psycho-social counseling, outpatient and residential substance abuse treatment services, and predelivery and postpartum home visits by maternity care coordinators and public health nurses, for Medicaid eligible pregnant women.

(b) There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Human Resources, Division of Medical Assistance, the sum of \$1,664,400 for the 1991-92 fiscal year and the sum of \$2,164,005 for the 1992-93 fiscal year to provide the State share of the increased coverage for services mandated by this section.

Sec. 2. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Human Resources, Division of Medical Assistance, the sum of \$1,000,000 for the 1991-92 fiscal year and the sum of \$1,000,000 for the 1992-93 fiscal year to provide assistance to counties in paying for the cost of Medicaid eligibility workers to take Medicaid applications for pregnant women and children in public health departments,

1 community, migrant, and rural health centers, and hospital inpatient and outpatient  
2 clinics where prenatal care or children's health services are delivered.

3       Sec. 3. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of  
4 Human Resources, Division of Mental Health, Mental Retardation, and Substance  
5 Abuse Services, the sum of \$1,420,000 for the 1991-92 fiscal year and the sum of  
6 \$1,420,000 for the 1992-93 fiscal year to set up three regional residential and outpatient  
7 treatment programs for pregnant women who abuse drugs or alcohol, and to continue  
8 support for the residential and outpatient treatment center located in Robeson County,  
9 North Carolina. The programs shall be located in either a public health department or a  
10 community, migrant, or rural health center that provides prenatal services, and shall  
11 include but not be limited to case management services, transportation, day care,  
12 prevention, residential placement, outpatient services, and money for household start-up  
13 costs.

14       Sec. 4. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of  
15 Human Resources, Division of Medical Assistance, the sum of \$500,000 for the 1991-  
16 92 fiscal year and the sum of \$500,000 for the 1992-93 fiscal year to help counties pay  
17 for the cost of Medicaid transportation services for pregnant women and children.  
18 Funds appropriated under this section shall be used to supplement and not to supplant  
19 county and federal funds already used for this purpose.

20       Sec. 5. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of  
21 Human Resources, Office of Rural Health, the sum of \$60,000 for the 1991-92 fiscal  
22 year and the sum of \$60,000 for the 1992-93 fiscal year to provide technical assistance  
23 to maternity care coordinators in community, migrant, or rural health centers, and to  
24 expand efforts to recruit doctors and nurse midwives in medically underserved areas.

25       Sec. 6. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of  
26 Environment, Health, and Natural Resources, Division of Maternal and Child Health,  
27 the sum of \$500,000 for the 1991-92 fiscal year and the sum of \$500,000 for the 1992-  
28 93 fiscal year to expand the rural Obstetrical Care Incentive Program established under  
29 Section 39.3 of Chapter 1100, 1987 Session Laws, Regular Session 1988. The Rural  
30 Obstetrical Care Incentive Program will be used to assist with the cost of malpractice  
31 insurance for family physicians, obstetricians, and certified nurse midwives who agree  
32 to provide prenatal and obstetrical services in medically underserved areas of the State.  
33 General surgeons who provide cesarean section backup to family physicians in counties  
34 where there are no obstetricians or where there are no obstetricians willing or able to  
35 provide such backup are also eligible for the program. Physicians and certified nurse  
36 midwives covered under the Rural Obstetrical Care Incentive Program are required to  
37 participate in an obstetrical care coverage plan developed by their local health  
38 department or community, migrant, or rural health center, and must agree to provide  
39 services to pregnant women regardless of their ability to pay for the services.

40       Sec. 7. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of  
41 Environment, Health, and Natural Resources, Division of Maternal and Child Health,  
42 the sum of \$750,000 for the 1991-92 fiscal year and the sum of \$750,000 for the 1992-  
43 93 fiscal year to expand general women's preventive health through local health

1 departments. Funds appropriated under this section shall be used to supplement and not  
2 to supplant existing funds available for this purpose.

3       Sec. 8. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of  
4 Environment, Health, and Natural Resources, Division of Maternal and Child Health,  
5 the sum of \$1,000,000 for the 1991-92 fiscal year and the sum of \$1,000,000 for the  
6 1992-93 fiscal year to provide nutritional supplements under the Women, Infants and  
7 Children program.

8       Sec. 9. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of  
9 Environment, Health, and Natural Resources, Division of Maternal and Child Health,  
10 the sum of \$1,000,000 for the 1991-92 fiscal year and the sum of \$1,000,000 for the  
11 1992-93 fiscal year to expand case management services for non-Medicaid eligible  
12 children under the age of 5 years who are considered to be at risk for special health  
13 problems.

14       Sec. 10. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of  
15 Environment, Health, and Natural Resources, State Public Health Laboratory, the sum  
16 of \$142,757 for the 1991-92 fiscal year and the sum of \$150,000 for the 1992-93 fiscal  
17 year to provide timely newborn screening to detect problems to prevent death or the  
18 onset of retardation.

19       Sec. 11. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of  
20 Environment, Health, and Natural Resources, Division of Maternal and Child Health,  
21 the sum of \$250,000 for the 1991-92 fiscal year and the sum of \$250,000 for the 1992-  
22 93 fiscal year to pay for maternity care coordination services for non-Medicaid eligible  
23 pregnant women in public health departments or community, migrant, or rural health  
24 centers.

25       Sec. 12. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the North Carolina  
26 Coalition on Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention the sum of \$75,000 for the 1991-92  
27 fiscal year and the sum of \$75,000 for the 1992-93 fiscal year as a grant-in-aid to  
28 provide technical assistance to local adolescent pregnancy prevention projects in  
29 reducing the high incidence of infant mortality resulting from low-birthweight babies  
30 born to adolescents.

31       Sec. 13. There is appropriated from the General Fund to Bowman Gray  
32 School of Medicine at Wake Forest University the sum of \$60,000 for the 1991-92  
33 fiscal year and the sum of \$60,000 for the 1992-93 fiscal year as a grant-in-aid to  
34 coordinate neonatal intensive care placements.

35       Sec. 14. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Board of  
36 Governors of The University of North Carolina the sum of \$95,000 for the 1991-92  
37 fiscal year and the sum of \$95,000 for the 1992-93 fiscal year to hire additional clinical  
38 faculty to establish a nurse midwifery education program. The program shall offer  
39 multiple track options for participating nurses; the multiple tracks shall take into  
40 consideration the varying degrees of preparation, and the only professional prerequisite  
41 shall be that applicants be licensed as registered nurses in the State of North Carolina,  
42 regardless of their educational preparation.

43       Sec. 15. The Department of Insurance, in conjunction with the Department of  
44 Environment, Health, and Natural Resources, Division of Maternal and Child Health,

1 and the Department of Human Resources, Division of Medical Assistance, shall conduct  
2 a study to determine the extent to which there are women who lack health insurance  
3 covering prenatal care and delivery services; and to determine the gaps in private and  
4 self-funded health insurance coverage. Not later than March 1, 1992, the Department of  
5 Insurance shall report to the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations  
6 and to the Fiscal Research Division on the progress of this study.

7           Sec. 16. This act becomes effective July 1, 1991.