

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1993

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HOUSE BILL 1271

Short Title: N.C. Bds. of Health Funds.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representatives J. Preston; Alphin, Arnold, Barbee, Barnhill, Bowie, Culp, Dickson, Easterling, Edwards, Esposito, Gamble, Gardner, Gottovi, Grady, Green, James, Mavretic, Nichols, Russell, Smith, and P. Wilson.

Referred to: Appropriations.

May 5, 1993

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR BUILDING THE CAPACITY OF
2 LOCAL BOARDS OF HEALTH TO PROTECT AND PROMOTE THE PUBLIC'S
3 HEALTH.
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5 Whereas, every county in North Carolina provides public health services; and

6 Whereas, local boards of health are responsible for hiring local health
7 directors, establishing policies, and adopting rules necessary to protect and promote the
8 public health; and

9 Whereas, to perform effectively board of health members need orientation to
10 public health needs, services, legal issues, policy development, and effective
11 governance; and

12 Whereas, in 1990 the W. K. Kellogg Foundation provided a three-year grant
13 to the Association of North Carolina Boards of Health to establish orientation and
14 training programs for board of health members in North Carolina; and

15 Whereas, 40% of the State's board of health members have attended
16 orientation programs, 10% have attended leadership development programs, and 90%
17 have received some educational service from the Association of North Carolina Boards
18 of Health in the past two years; and

19 Whereas, orientation and educational training increase board of health
20 members' effectiveness in assessing community needs, developing local public health
21 policies, and assuring essential public health services are available; and

1 Whereas, well-informed boards of health are better equipped to incorporate
2 successfully local information and data about their community's health problems into
3 early intervention and preventive health services; and

4 Whereas, knowledgeable boards of health can develop community
5 partnerships and convene community forums to discuss problems and priorities; and

6 Whereas, local boards of health assure that local public health decisions are
7 made in an independent, objective manner; and

8 Whereas, local boards of health are a significant part of North Carolina's
9 strong community-based public health system; and

10 Whereas, the General Assembly created local boards of health to protect and
11 promote the public's health and has a legitimate interest in their capacity to perform
12 these duties; Now, therefore,

13 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

14 Section 1. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
15 Environment, Health, and Natural Resources the sum of two hundred thousand dollars
16 (\$200,000) for the 1993-94 fiscal year and the sum of two hundred thousand dollars
17 (\$200,000) for the 1994-95 fiscal year for distribution to the Association of North
18 Carolina Boards of Health for the purpose of continuing board of health orientation,
19 leadership, and educational development programs.

20 Sec. 2. This act becomes effective July 1, 1993.