

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1993

H

1

HOUSE BILL 1484

Short Title: Medicaid Immunizations.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Miner; and Bowman.

Referred to: Appropriations.

May 17, 1993

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR THE PURCHASE OF STATE-
2 MANDATED VACCINES FOR THE IMMUNIZATION OF MEDICAID-
3 ELIGIBLE CHILDREN.
4

5 Whereas, all children in the State are entitled to receive age-appropriate
6 immunizations from those childhood diseases referred to in G.S. 130A-152(a),
7 regardless of ability to pay; and

8 Whereas, approximately 60% of children in this State actually receive age-
9 appropriate immunizations from the childhood diseases known as diphtheria, tetanus,
10 and whooping cough, in the form of vaccinations. Those children not receiving the
11 vaccine are generally and primarily members of families eligible to receive public
12 assistance from the Medicaid program; and

13 Whereas, universal purchase by the State of childhood vaccines to be
14 administered to all children regardless of financial need would be prohibitively
15 expensive and would provide excessive benefits to persons with both financial ability
16 and means to obtain childhood vaccines from private physicians and county health
17 departments; and

18 Whereas, the delivery of vaccines to children in need and otherwise unable to
19 pay is appropriate for State health assistance and payment pursuant to G.S. 108A-55 and
20 applicable federal law; and

21 Whereas, the State's purpose to encourage low-income parents to have
22 vaccines administered to their children would be appropriately accomplished by the
23 adoption of a medical assistance vaccine purchase program; and

1 Whereas, the General Assembly believes that the cost of adopting a medical
2 assistance vaccine purchase program would be significantly less costly and equally as
3 beneficial as the adoption of a universal purchase vaccine program; Now, therefore,
4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 Section 1. Part 6 of Article 2 of Chapter 108A is amended by adding the
6 following new section to read:

7 **"§ 108A-69. Medical Assistance Vaccine Purchase Program established; purpose;**
8 **administration.**

9 (a) There is established in the Department of Human Resources a Medical
10 Assistance Vaccine Purchase Program. The purpose of the program is to provide direct
11 payment to vaccine suppliers and manufacturers for vaccines supplied to physicians and
12 local health departments that immunize Medicaid-eligible children in accordance with
13 G.S. 130A-152 and G.S. 130A-153.

14 (b) Payment by the Department for the cost of the vaccine shall be made directly
15 to the supplier or manufacturer upon receipt of an application for payment submitted by
16 the manufacturer or supplier. The amount to be paid to the supplier or manufacturer for
17 vaccines supplied shall not be less than that amount paid by the United States Center for
18 Disease Control to vaccine suppliers or manufacturers, plus a reasonable administrative
19 fee of not less than one dollar and fifty cents (\$1.50) per dose.

20 (c) Persons authorized to administer the vaccine under G.S. 130A-153 may
21 charge a reasonable fee for administration, but may not charge the patient or client any
22 fee for the cost of the vaccine.

23 (d) Eligibility for services under this section shall be determined in accordance
24 with rules established pursuant to G.S. 108A-55.

25 (e) The Department shall ensure that immunizations provided under the program
26 are administered at age-appropriate stages. The Department shall establish a public
27 education program to promote the benefits of age-appropriate vaccine administration to
28 recipients of medical assistance.

29 (f) The Medical Care Commission shall adopt rules to implement the Medical
30 Assistance Vaccine Purchase Program, including rules requiring physicians and local
31 health departments to keep adequate records of vaccinations administered and to report
32 information required by the Commission to the Department regarding vaccinations and
33 the purchase of vaccines."

34 Sec. 2. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
35 Human Resources the sum of four million dollars (\$4,000,000) for the 1993-94 fiscal
36 year and the sum of four million dollars (\$4,000,000) for the 1994-95 fiscal year, to
37 implement this act.

38 Sec. 3. This act becomes effective July 1, 1993.