

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**

**SESSION 1993**

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**HOUSE BILL 1579**

Short Title: Independent Living Program/Funds.

(Public)

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Sponsors: Representatives Nye; Flaherty, Colton, McCrary, Ives, Jeffus, and J. Preston.

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Referred to: Appropriations.

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May 25, 1994

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO PROVIDE FOR A STATEWIDE  
INDEPENDENT LIVING REHABILITATION PROGRAM.

Whereas, the General Assembly has established and funded 11 Independent Living Rehabilitation Program offices that serve 70 counties; and

Whereas, the Independent Living Program enables people with severe physical disabilities to manage their own lives better, to assume more personal responsibility to their families and to their communities, and to become more independent; and

Whereas, the specific services provided by the Independent Living Program, such as rehabilitation engineering, home and vehicle modifications, adaptive equipment purchases, housing placement and assistance, attendant care, attendant management training, planning for leisure activities, and other independent living guidance and counseling services, enable many severely physically handicapped people to maximize their potential as citizens in their homes and in their communities; and

Whereas, the independence severely physically handicapped people achieve through the Independent Living Program enables them to avoid being institutionalized for as long as possible, while the cost of the Program is far less than institutionalization would be; and

Whereas, five more Program offices are needed to serve the remaining 30 counties: Alleghany, Anson, Ashe, Avery, Camden, Carteret, Chowan, Craven, Currituck, Dare, Franklin, Gates, Granville, Hyde, Johnston, Jones, Montgomery, Pamlico, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Person, Richmond, Scotland, Stanly, Tyrrell, Vance, Warren, Washington, Watauga, and Wilkes; Now, therefore,

1 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

2           Section 1. The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services, Department  
3 of Human Resources, shall implement the Independent Living Rehabilitation Program  
4 statewide by establishing five new offices in Craven, Pasquotank, Stanly, Wake, and  
5 Watauga counties to facilitate Independent Living Rehabilitation Program services in  
6 the 30 remaining unserved counties, by providing for the service needs of eligible  
7 citizens served through existing Program offices, and by providing adequate  
8 administrative support to existing offices and the new offices established pursuant to  
9 this section.

10           Sec. 2. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Division of  
11 Vocational Rehabilitation, Department of Human Resources, the sum of two million  
12 dollars (\$2,000,000) for the 1994-95 fiscal year to implement this act.

13           Sec. 3. This act becomes effective July 1, 1994.