

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**

**EXTRA SESSION 1994**

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HOUSE BILL 78

Short Title: Child/Adolescent Mentoring Funds.

(Public)

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Sponsors: Representatives H. Hunter; Bowman, Braswell, D. Brown, Burton, Cummings, Cunningham, Fitch, Kennedy, Kinney, McAllister, Michaux, Oldham, Wainwright, and Wright.

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Referred to: Children, Youth and Families.

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February 11, 1994

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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2 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO DEVELOP COMPREHENSIVE  
3 COORDINATED CHILD AND ADOLESCENT ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG  
4 MENTORING INITIATIVES IN ORDER TO EFFECT SHORT-TERM AND  
5 LONG-TERM CRIME PREVENTION.

6       Whereas, each child and each adolescent are individuals who have social,  
7 emotional, mental, physical, spiritual, educational, and vocational needs that are  
8 interrelated; and

9       Whereas, each child and each adolescent have ethnic background, cultural  
10 heritage, and gender identity that should be respected and responded to sensitively and  
11 appropriately; and

12       Whereas, each child and each adolescent need the involvement and support of  
13 parents and family, caregivers, and other concerned adults; and

14       Whereas, children, adolescents, and their families respond to the values of  
15 their communities, and these communities should promote positive values and  
16 meaningful opportunities to support children, adolescents, and their families in  
17 achieving a positive and nurturing home environment; and

18       Whereas, substance abuse education and comprehensive primary prevention  
19 services are effective in preventing the use of alcohol and other drugs, in delaying the  
20 onset of substance abuse, and in reducing the incidence of substance abuse problems  
21 among children, adolescents, and their families; and

1           Whereas, broad-based groups within communities, including youth-serving  
2 organizations, churches, businesses, civic clubs, and other service organizations should  
3 be encouraged to participate in efforts to prevent alcohol and other drug use among  
4 children and adolescents; and

5           Whereas, there is a need for a more comprehensive, coordinated statewide  
6 approach to mentoring projects for children and adolescents specific to alcohol and  
7 other drug prevention programming; Now, therefore,  
8 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

9           Section 1. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of  
10 Human Resources, Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and  
11 Substance Abuse Services, the sum of four hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$450,000)  
12 for the 1993-94 fiscal year and five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) for the 1994-  
13 95 fiscal year, to:

- 14           (1) Develop, promote, and implement child and adolescent alcohol and  
15 other drug abuse prevention mentoring programs to identified and  
16 targeted youth populations;
- 17           (2) Conduct research and data collection that provide information on  
18 effective mentoring initiatives and the impact of alcohol and other  
19 drug prevention efforts, and disseminate pertinent facts and research to  
20 public officials, other decision makers, and to professionals and  
21 volunteers working with alcohol and other drug mentoring programs  
22 with, or on behalf of, children and adolescents in at-risk categories for  
23 alcohol and other drug abuse;
- 24           (3) Provide services, training programs, and resources to identified  
25 mentoring projects in developing effective curricula and develop a  
26 training institute to train mentors on how to effectively implement the  
27 alcohol and other drug prevention curricula for the greatest impact and  
28 provide measures by which parents can effectively and appropriately  
29 be involved;
- 30           (4) Initiate a statewide media campaign to promote mentoring programs as  
31 a viable alcohol and other drug prevention element to project a  
32 healthy, drug-free lifestyle;
- 33           (5) Provide funds for eight to twelve eligible area programs and contract  
34 agencies within identified areas of the State and make available not  
35 less than thirty-five percent (35%) of total grant funds to provide  
36 opportunity grants to subgrantees such as incorporated nonprofit  
37 fraternal organizations, churches, neighborhood associations, and other  
38 groups. Designated subgrantees may receive up to ten thousand  
39 dollars (\$10,000) per year for the support of such mentoring project  
40 expenses as stipends and related program expenses;
- 41           (6) Funds shall be made available through a Request for Proposals (RFP),  
42 with grants awarded on a competitive basis to eligible area programs  
43 and contract agencies. Applicants may request grants of up to seventy-

1 five thousand dollars (\$75,000) per year for up to three fiscal years;  
2 and

3 (7) In the first year of implementation, the Department shall select no less  
4 than 10 community mentoring projects for grants of up to seventy-five  
5 thousand dollars (\$75,000) each. In the second year the Department  
6 shall award no less than 12 grants up to seventy-five thousand dollars  
7 (\$75,000) each.

8 Sec. 2. In administering these funds, the Department of Human Resources  
9 shall:

- 10 (1) Require applicants to conduct an analysis of current programs within a  
11 county to avoid duplication efforts;
- 12 (2) Direct local programs to undertake an annual evaluation of the impact  
13 and outcome of the program;
- 14 (3) Allow nonprofit organizations within a county to be eligible to apply  
15 for a mentoring program; and
- 16 (4) Expand the State-level oversight by establishing an interdepartmental  
17 advisory group.

18 Sec. 3. Of the funds appropriated in this act to the Department of Human  
19 Resources for the 1993-94 fiscal year and the 1994-95 fiscal year, the sum of one  
20 hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) each fiscal year shall be used for the overall  
21 evaluation and on-going support of the mentoring programs as mandated by the General  
22 Assembly. The Department shall develop appropriate outcome and impact measures  
23 and may require the return of funds from any programs that do not meet their  
24 performance standards. As of the effective date of this act, any project selected for  
25 funding shall include a line item in the proposed budget for the evaluation of the  
26 individual project.

27 Sec. 4. This act is effective upon ratification.