

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

EXTRA SESSION 1994

S

1

SENATE BILL 86*

Short Title: Child/Adolescent Mentoring Funds.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senator Jordan.

Referred to: Juveniles/Prevention.

February 15, 1994

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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

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

22 Whereas, broad-based groups within communities, including youth-serving
23 organizations, churches, businesses, civic clubs, and other service organizations should

1 be encouraged to participate in efforts to prevent alcohol and other drug use among
2 children and adolescents; and

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

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

- 12 (1) Develop, promote, and implement child and adolescent alcohol and
13 other drug abuse prevention mentoring programs to identified and
14 targeted youth populations;
- 15 (2) Conduct research and data collection that provide information on
16 effective mentoring initiatives and the impact of alcohol and other
17 drug prevention efforts, and disseminate pertinent facts and research to
18 public officials, other decision makers, and to professionals and
19 volunteers working with alcohol and other drug mentoring programs
20 with, or on behalf of, children and adolescents in at-risk categories for
21 alcohol and other drug abuse;
- 22 (3) Provide services, training programs, and resources to identified
23 mentoring projects in developing effective curricula and develop a
24 training institute to train mentors on how to effectively implement the
25 alcohol and other drug prevention curricula for the greatest impact and
26 provide measures by which parents can effectively and appropriately
27 be involved;
- 28 (4) Initiate a statewide media campaign to promote mentoring programs as
29 a viable alcohol and other drug prevention element to project a
30 healthy, drug-free lifestyle;
- 31 (5) Provide funds for eight to twelve eligible area programs and contract
32 agencies within identified areas of the State and make available not
33 less than thirty-five percent (35%) of total grant funds to provide
34 opportunity grants to subgrantees such as incorporated nonprofit
35 fraternal organizations, churches, neighborhood associations, and other
36 groups. Designated subgrantees may receive up to ten thousand
37 dollars (\$10,000) per year for the support of such mentoring project
38 expenses as stipends and related program expenses;
- 39 (6) Funds shall be made available through a Request for Proposals (RFP),
40 with grants awarded on a competitive basis to eligible area programs
41 and contract agencies. Applicants may request grants of up to seventy-
42 five thousand dollars (\$75,000) per year for up to three fiscal years;
43 and

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

6 Sec. 2. In administering these funds, the Department of Human Resources
7 shall:

8 (1) Require applicants to conduct an analysis of current programs within a
9 county to avoid duplication efforts;

10 (2) Direct local programs to undertake an annual evaluation of the impact
11 and outcome of the program;

12 (3) Allow nonprofit organizations within a county to be eligible to apply
13 for a mentoring program; and

14 (4) Expand the State-level oversight by establishing an interdepartmental
15 advisory group.

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

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