

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2003

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SENATE DRS75318-LN-197 (05/13)

Short Title: Local Health Department Accreditation/Funds. (Public)

Sponsors: Senator Hartsell.

Referred to:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES TO ESTABLISH A LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT VOLUNTARY ACCREDITATION PROGRAM; AND TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO IMPLEMENT THIS ACT.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1.(a) Part 1 of Article 2 of Chapter 130A of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:

"§ 130A-34.1. Accreditation of local health departments; accrediting entity.

(a) All local health departments may obtain and maintain accreditation in accordance with this section and with rules adopted by the Commission.

(b) The accreditation process shall be established and implemented by The North Carolina Institute for Public Health, University of North Carolina School of Public Health (hereinafter "Institute"). The Institute shall assign an accreditation status to each local health department that applies for initial accreditation, reaccreditation, or relief from conditional accreditation. The Institute shall assign the appropriate accreditation status as follows:

(1) Accredited, which means that the local health department has satisfied the accreditation standards adopted by the Institute and applicable rules adopted by the Commission.

(2) Conditionally accredited, which means that the local health department has failed to meet one or more accreditation standards and has therefore been granted short-term accreditation subject to conditions specified by the Institute.

(3) Unaccredited, which means that the local health department has continued to fail to meet one or more accreditation standards after a period of conditional accreditation.

1 (c) The Commission shall, after reviewing standards developed by and
2 consulting with the Institute, adopt rules establishing accreditation standards for local
3 health departments. The accreditation standards shall include at least all of the
4 following:

- 5 (1) An accreditation process that consists of the following components:
6 a. A self-assessment conducted by the local health department
7 seeking accreditation. The self-assessment shall measure the
8 local health department's capacity to and performance of the
9 following essential services:
10 1. Monitoring health status to identify community health
11 problems.
12 2. Diagnosing and investigating health hazards in the
13 community.
14 3. Informing, educating, and empowering people about
15 health issues.
16 4. Mobilizing community partnerships to identify and solve
17 health problems.
18 5. Developing policies and plans that support individual
19 and community health efforts.
20 6. Enforcing laws and regulations that protect health and
21 ensure safety.
22 7. Linking people to needed personal health care services
23 and assuring the provision of health care when otherwise
24 unavailable.
25 8. Assuring a competent public health workforce and
26 personal health care workforce.
27 9. Evaluating effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of
28 personal and population-based health services.
29 b. A site visit by a team of experts to clarify, verify, and amplify
30 the information in the self-assessment.
31 c. Final action by the Institute on the local health department's
32 accreditation status.
33 (2) The local health department's capacity to provide the essential public
34 health services as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and
35 Prevention.
36 (3) The local health department's facilities and administration. The review
37 shall address, at a minimum:
38 a. Adequacy of facilities for services provided.
39 b. Hours of operation that are adequate for access to essential
40 services.
41 c. Mechanisms for assessing quality of services.
42 (4) The local health department's staff competencies and training
43 procedures or programs. The review shall address, at a minimum:
44 a. Licensing, certification, and registration requirements.

- 1 b. Continuing education.
2 c. Orientation.
3 (5) The local health department's governance. The review shall address, at
4 a minimum, policies on:
5 a. Budgeting, accounting, fee-setting, and purchasing.
6 b. Other financial management activities that assure accountability
7 for funds.
8 (d) The Institute shall assign the following accreditation status, as applicable:
9 (1) "Accredited" to a local health department that satisfies the
10 accreditation standards and rules adopted by the Commission. The
11 initial period of accreditation shall expire four calendar years after
12 initial accreditation is granted.
13 (2) "Conditionally accredited" to a local health department that, in its
14 initial accreditation application, fails to satisfy the accreditation
15 standards and rules adopted by the Commission. The period of
16 conditional accreditation shall expire two calendar years after
17 conditional accreditation is granted. The Institute shall provide to the
18 local health department a written statement of the conditions that must
19 be satisfied in order for the local health department to be accredited. At
20 any time during the two-year period, the local health department may
21 request that its status be reviewed and changed from "conditionally
22 accredited" to "accredited." If the Institute finds that the conditions
23 have been met, the Institute shall change the local health department's
24 status to "accredited" with the accreditation period to expire four
25 calendar years after the conditional accreditation was initially granted.
26 If the Institute finds that the conditions have not been satisfied, the
27 local health department shall continue under its grant of conditional
28 accreditation.
29 (3) "Unaccredited" to the local health department if, at the end of the
30 conditional accreditation period, the department fails to meet the
31 accreditation standards at that time.
32 (e) Each accredited local health department shall apply for reaccreditation before
33 the initial period of accreditation expires. If a local health department fails to apply for
34 reaccreditation in a timely manner, the Institute shall change the local health
35 department's status to "unaccredited."
36 (f) When the Institute assigns the status "unaccredited" to a local health
37 department, the Institute shall send written notification of that status to the local health
38 department and to the Secretary.
39 (g) The Commission shall adopt rules to implement this act."
40 **SECTION 2.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
41 Department of Health and Human Services the sum of two hundred fifty-five thousand
42 five hundred ninety-seven dollars (\$255,597) for the 2004-2005 fiscal year. These
43 funds shall be allocated for administrative costs of the Department and pursuant to a
44 contract with the Institute of Public Health, to develop and implement the accreditation

1 process for six or fewer local health departments. The Department may provide for the
2 accreditation of additional local health departments if non-State funds are obtained for
3 this purpose.

4 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2004.