

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2003**

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SENATE BILL 1362

Short Title: Funds for Public Health Incubators. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Holloman; Hargett and Purcell.

Referred to: Appropriations/Base Budget.

May 27, 2004

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO IMPLEMENT FOUR PILOT PROJECTS
2 THAT ESTABLISH VOLUNTARY REGIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH
3 PARTNERSHIPS IN NORTHEASTERN NORTH CAROLINA.
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5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 **SECTION 1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
7 Department of Health and Human Services the sum of two million two hundred fifty
8 thousand dollars (\$2,250,000) for the 2004-2005 fiscal year. These funds shall be
9 allocated to the North Carolina Institute for Public Health, School of Public Health at
10 the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill to coordinate the development of "public
11 health incubators." One of these incubators shall be comprised of enterprise tier one
12 counties and other counties affiliated with tier one counties through district health
13 departments in northeastern North Carolina. For purposes of this section "enterprise
14 tier" has the meaning given in G.S. 105-129.2. Core participants in these incubators
15 will be local public health departments in selected underserved regions. Other
16 governmental agencies and nonprofit organizations will also be invited to participate.

17 The funds shall be used to:

- 18 (1) Establish or strengthen the capacity to conduct epidemiological
19 investigation and to actively monitor public health conditions,
20 diseases, and risk factors.
- 21 (2) Establish or strengthen the capacity to monitor health disparities and to
22 develop plans to reduce those disparities.
- 23 (3) Conduct regional community health assessments with the assistance of
24 other members of the public health community including other
25 governmental agencies and nonprofit organizations, to establish
26 partnership health priorities based on these findings, and to draft public
27 health interventions to address the highest health priorities.
- 28 (4) Raise public awareness of the health-related issues in partnership
29 communities, collaborating with members of the larger public health

1 community and with local and State media, reporting health issues to
2 the county commissioners, the boards of health, legislators, at-risk
3 groups, and to the community at large.

4 (5) Provide regular, supplemental training to members of the participating
5 boards of health to inform them about their overall responsibilities
6 including their role in policy development, to introduce them to
7 evidence-based best practices in public health with an emphasis on
8 collaborative initiatives, and to update them on emerging public health
9 issues, particularly those that are of greatest concern to their
10 communities.

11 (6) Conduct workforce preparedness assessments and follow-on training
12 for the public health workforce in the pilot regions and to establish or
13 supplement policy to facilitate effective responses to public health
14 emergencies where appropriate.

15 (7) Assist the accreditation administrator in the review of partnership
16 health departments and to assist in remediation where necessary,
17 through collaborative efforts.

18 (8) Establish a formal, systematic review of the incubators to track and
19 evaluate the efficacy of roles, organization, and programs, to identify
20 best practices, and to develop recommendations for improvement
21 based on these findings.

22 **SECTION 2.** The Department of Health and Human Services shall report on
23 the use of these funds and an evaluation of the incubator efforts to the Senate
24 Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services, the House of
25 Representatives Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services, and the
26 Fiscal Research Division. The Department shall submit the report on October 1, 2004,
27 and March 1, 2005.

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