

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2005

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HOUSE BILL 1476

Short Title: LRC/Study School-Based Health Centers. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Wright, Clary (Primary Sponsors); Alexander, Glazier, and Wainwright.

Referred to: Health.

April 21, 2005

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1
2 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH COMMISSION TO
3 STUDY AND EVALUATE THE NUMBER OF SCHOOL-BASED AND
4 SCHOOL-LINKED HEALTH CENTERS TO DETERMINE THE IMPACT THE
5 CENTERS HAVE ON PROVIDING HEALTH CARE.

6 Whereas, adolescents are the least likely segment of the population to use
7 health services; and

8 Whereas, North Carolina ranks 39th in the nation regarding the general health
9 and well-being of its children, according to the Centers for Disease Control and
10 Prevention; and

11 Whereas, without ready access to health services, adolescents often will not
12 seek care or will stop seeking the care they desire and need; and

13 Whereas, the North Carolina Supreme Court affirmed in July 2004 that every
14 child has a right to the "equal opportunity to receive a sound basic education"; and

15 Whereas, good health is critical to learning, and the absence of good health is
16 a serious impediment to the opportunity to receive a sound basic education; and

17 Whereas, primary and preventive health services should be provided in or
18 near schools where feasible; and

19 Whereas, there are approximately fifty-five school-based or school-linked
20 health centers, including a mobile van, currently available to at-risk populations of
21 young people in North Carolina; and

22 Whereas, only twenty-seven school-based and school-linked centers receive
23 some State funding; and

24 Whereas, many centers provide preventive and primary medical care and
25 mental health services, including referrals and follow-up treatments for serious illnesses
26 and injuries, alcohol and other drug abuse, sexually transmitted infections, and
27 immunization, while some centers provide only primary care; and

1 Whereas, the school-based and school-linked centers are available to less than
2 one percent of the adolescent population statewide; and

3 Whereas, the rising cost of delivering health care has made the centers
4 increasingly dependent on the funds received from the State, and center caseloads are
5 increasing while funding has been static; Now, therefore,

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 **SECTION 1.(a)** The Legislative Research Commission may study and
8 evaluate the number of school-based and school-linked health centers in providing
9 primary care, mental health, and other health care services to determine the centers'
10 impact on providing health care. In conducting the study, the Commission may consider
11 the following:

- 12 (1) The health centers' role in contributing to the health and well being of
13 adolescents and in reducing the cost of health care.
- 14 (2) Adequacy of current funding and measures needed to sustain the
15 centers as part of the overall school health strategy to improve the
16 health of adolescents.
- 17 (3) The secured-care rate for students who have access to not only a
18 school nurse but also to a school-based or school-linked health center
19 and whether students receive care in a timely manner from appropriate
20 health care providers.
- 21 (4) Other matters related to the efficacy and efficiency of school-based
22 and school-linked health centers such that care provided enables
23 students to remain in class, be productive and attentive while in class,
24 and have fewer absences from school.

25 To assist in the study, the Commission may consult with such stakeholders as the North
26 Carolina Association of School-Based and School-Linked Health Centers, the North
27 Carolina Pediatric Society, the Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Coalition of North
28 Carolina, the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health, and
29 other interested parties.

30 **SECTION 1.(b)** The Legislative Research Commission may make an
31 interim report, including proposed legislation, to the 2006 Regular Session of the 2005
32 General Assembly and shall make its final report to the 2007 General Assembly upon its
33 convening.

34 **SECTION 2.** The Legislative Services Officer shall allocate funds
35 appropriated to the General Assembly for the expenditures of the Legislative Services
36 Commission in conducting this study.

37 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2005.