

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2003

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HOUSE DRH30204-LU-34 (3/10)

Short Title: Est. Reg'l. Interagency Coordinating Council. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Alexander and Warren (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT ESTABLISHING REGIONAL INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCILS UNDER THE LAWS RELATING TO EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES FOR CHILDREN FROM BIRTH TO FIVE YEARS OF AGE WITH DISABILITIES.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.** Chapter 143B of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:

**"§ 143B-179.5A. Regional Interagency Coordinating Councils for Children from Birth to Five with Disabilities and Their Families; establishment; composition; organization; duties; compensation; reporting.**

(a) There are established 18 Regional Interagency Coordinating Councils for Children from Birth to Five with Disabilities and Their Families, corresponding with the catchment areas for the Children's Developmental Services Agency of the Division of Public Health, Department of Health and Human Services.

(b) Each Regional Interagency Coordinating Council shall have no more than 30 members, appointed by the NC Interagency Coordinating Council (NC-ICC) and the Division of Public Health. Members of each Regional Council shall serve staggered terms. On or before January 1, 2004, the NC-ICC and the Division of Public Health shall designate no more than 15 appointees to serve for two-year terms on each Regional Council and no more than 15 appointees to serve for one-year terms on each Regional Council. Upon the expiration of the terms of the initial Regional Council members, each member shall be appointed for a term of two years and shall serve until a successor is appointed. The NC-ICC and the Division of Public Health shall have the power to remove any member of a Regional Council from office. Any appointment to fill a vacancy on a Regional Council created by the resignation, dismissal, death, or disability of a member shall be for the remainder of the unexpired term. Members may

1 succeed themselves for one term and may be appointed again after being off a Regional  
2 Council for one term. All members shall abide by the state interagency agreement of the  
3 NC Interagency Coordinating Council.

4 (c) The composition of Regional Councils shall be as follows:

- 5 (1) At least twenty percent (20%) parents or families of young children  
6 ages birth to five with disabilities for each region.
- 7 (2) One Local Interagency Coordinating Council (LICC) representative  
8 for each county in a region.
- 9 (3) The Children's Developmental Services Agency Director.
- 10 (4) One Regional Family Support Network representative for each region.
- 11 (5) One Local Management Entity representative for each region  
12 practicing in the area of mental health.
- 13 (6) One health department representative for each region.
- 14 (7) One executive director of a local Partnership for Children for each  
15 region.
- 16 (8) One local Department of Social Services representative for each  
17 region.
- 18 (9) One representative who is a member of the medical community for  
19 each region. Members appointed pursuant to this subdivision may  
20 include a pediatrician, or a health care provider, as defined in G.S.  
21 58-50-61(8), at a local hospital, including a neonatal intensive care  
22 unit (NICU).
- 23 (10) One Head Start/Early Head Start representative for each region.
- 24 (11) One representative from the Office of Education Services Governor  
25 Morehead Early Intervention/Preschool Program for each region.
- 26 (12) One representative from the Office of Education Services Deaf/Hard  
27 of Hearing Early Intervention/Preschool Program for each region.
- 28 (13) One representative of the Regional TEACCH program.
- 29 (14) One representative of the Military Early Intervention program, if a  
30 military base is present in the region.
- 31 (15) Other public or private providers as recommended by LICCs within  
32 the region and as approved by the NC-ICC and the Division of Public  
33 Health.

34 (d) After a Regional Council has appointed its members, the Regional Council  
35 shall, at its first meeting, elect a parent and a professional as cochairs to establish any  
36 standing or ad hoc committees or task forces necessary to carry out the functions of the  
37 Regional Council. The Regional Council shall meet at least quarterly. A majority of the  
38 Regional Council will constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

39 (e) Each Regional Council shall be responsible for developing an early  
40 intervention plan, in collaboration with the Children's Developmental Services Agency,  
41 for all eligible children ages birth to three years and their families in its designated area.  
42 The Regional Council shall specifically address in its early intervention plan, as  
43 indicated in the 'Individuals with Disabilities Education Act' (IDEA), P.L. 105-17, those  
44 efforts designated as local responsibilities, including the following:

- 1 (1) Implementing Child Find through public awareness activities.
- 2 (2) Ensuring the availability of early intervention required services
- 3 through the assessment of service delivery capacity, the identification
- 4 of needs, and the development or revision of plans to address gaps or
- 5 inadequacies.
- 6 (3) Implementing policies for interagency professional development.
- 7 (4) Establishing methods for compliance monitoring and qualitative
- 8 evaluation of services.
- 9 (5) Developing a plan of coordination and integration with other early
- 10 childhood special education and related human service planning, such
- 11 as that carried out by Mental Health Local Management Entities
- 12 (LMEs), Smart Start, and Local Education Agencies (LEAs).

13 (f) Each Regional Interagency Coordinating Council shall prepare and submit an

14 annual report to the NC-ICC and all regional early intervention agencies in its area. The

15 annual report shall address the status of the early intervention system for eligible infants

16 and toddlers in its respective region. Additionally, each Regional Council shall report

17 quarterly to the NC-ICC on the development and implementation status of its regional

18 early intervention plan. The Early Intervention Branch of the Division of Public Health

19 shall make significant efforts to identify all appropriate funding sources to support each

20 Regional Council with staff and administrative support."

21 **SECTION 2.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the

22 Department of Health and Human Services the sum of one hundred sixty-one thousand

23 six hundred nineteen dollars (\$161,619) for the 2003-2004 fiscal year and the sum of

24 seven hundred forty-five thousand one hundred fifty-eight dollars (\$745,158) for the

25 2004-2005 fiscal year to be used for the establishment of 18 Regional Interagency

26 Coordinating Councils for Children from Birth to Five with Disabilities and Their

27 Families in this State.

28 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2003.