

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2003

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SENATE DRS55134-LN-110 (3/26)

Short Title: Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Council. (Public)

Sponsors: Senator Kerr.

Referred to:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY ADVISORY COUNCIL.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.** Article 3 of Chapter 143B of the General Statutes is amended by adding the following new Part to read:

"Part 33. North Carolina Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Council.

**"§ 143B-216.65. North Carolina Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Council - creation and duties.**

(a) There is established the North Carolina Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Council in the Department of Health and Human Services. The Council shall have duties including the following:

- (1) Review how the term 'traumatic brain injury' is defined by the State and federal regulations and to determine whether changes should be made to the State definition to include 'acquired brain injury' or other appropriate conditions.
- (2) Promote interagency coordination among State agencies responsible for services and support of individuals that have sustained traumatic brain injury.
- (3) Study the needs of individuals with traumatic brain injury and their families.
- (4) Make recommendations to the Governor, the General Assembly, and the Secretary of Health and Human Services regarding the planning, development, funding, and implementation of a comprehensive statewide service delivery system.
- (5) Promote and implement injury prevention strategies across the State.

1 "§ 143B-216.66. North Carolina Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Council -  
2 membership; quorum; compensation.

3 (a) The Council shall consist of 25 members, appointed as follows:

4 (1) Two members by the General Assembly, upon the recommendation of  
5 the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, as follows:

6 a. The Executive Director, or designee thereof, of the Brain Injury  
7 Association of North Carolina.

8 b. A physician, nurse, or other professional coordinator with  
9 expertise in trauma, neurosurgery, neuropsychology, physical  
10 medicine and rehabilitation, or emergency medicine.

11 (2) Two members by the General Assembly, upon the recommendation of  
12 the Speaker of the House of Representatives, as follows:

13 a. The Chair of the Board, or designee thereof, of the Brain Injury  
14 Association of North Carolina.

15 b. A physician, nurse, or other professional coordinator with  
16 expertise in trauma, neurosurgery, neuropsychology, physical  
17 medicine and rehabilitation, or emergency medicine.

18 (3) Nine members by the Governor, as follows:

19 a. Three survivors of brain injury, one each representing the  
20 eastern, central, and western regions of the State.

21 b. Three family members of persons with brain injury.

22 c. A brain injury service provider in private practice.

23 d. The director of an area program or county program of mental  
24 health, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse services.

25 e. The Executive Director, or designee thereof, of the North  
26 Carolina Trial Lawyers Association.

27 (4) Eight members by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, one  
28 from each of the following:

29 a. The Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and  
30 Substance Abuse Services.

31 b. The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.

32 c. The Council on Developmental Disabilities.

33 d. The Division of Medical Assistance.

34 e. The Division of Facility Services.

35 f. The Division of Social Services.

36 g. The Office of Emergency Medical Services.

37 h. The Division of Public Health.

38 (5) Two by the Superintendent of Public Instruction, at least one of whom  
39 is from the Division of Exceptional Children.

40 (6) One by the Commissioner of Insurance.

41 (7) One by the Secretary of Administration representing veterans affairs.

42 (b) The terms of the initial members of the Council shall commence October 1,  
43 2003. In his initial appointments, the Governor shall designate three members who shall  
44 serve terms of four years, three members who shall serve terms of three years, and three

1 members who shall serve terms of two years. After the initial appointees' terms have  
2 expired, all members shall be appointed for a term of four years. No member appointed  
3 by the Governor shall serve more than two successive terms.

4 Any appointment to fill a vacancy on the Council created by the resignation,  
5 dismissal, death, or disability of a member shall be for the balance of the unexpired  
6 term.

7 (c) The chair of the Council shall be designated by the Secretary of the  
8 Department of Health and Human Services from the Council members. The chair shall  
9 hold this office for not more than four years.

10 (d) The Council shall meet quarterly and at other times at the call of the chair. A  
11 majority of the Council shall constitute a quorum.

12 (e) Council members shall be reimbursed for expenses incurred in the  
13 performance of their duties in accordance with G.S. 138-5.

14 (f) The Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services shall provide  
15 clerical and other assistance as needed."

16 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law.  
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