

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2007

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SENATE DRS35139-LN-156\* (3/1)

Short Title: Public Health Technical Changes.-AB (Public)

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Sponsors: Senator Purcell.

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Referred to:

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A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO MAKE CLARIFYING AND OTHER CHANGES IN THE PUBLIC HEALTH LAW RELATED TO THE MEDICAL EXAMINER SYSTEM, INJURY CONTROL EFFORTS, TIMELINESS OF REPORTS BY SCHOOLS REGARDING IMMUNIZATIONS, AND THE CREATION, EXTENSION, AND DISSOLUTION OF SANITARY DISTRICTS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.** G.S. 130A-47 reads as rewritten:

"§ 130A-47. **Creation by Commission.**

(a) For the purpose of preserving and promoting the public health and welfare, the Commission may create sanitary districts without regard for county, township or municipal lines. However, no municipal corporation or any part of the territory in a municipal corporation shall be included in a sanitary district except at the request of the governing board of the municipal corporation. If the municipal corporation has not levied any tax nor performed any official act nor held any elections within a period of four years preceding the date of the petition for the sanitary district, a request of the governing board shall not be required.

(b) For the purposes of this Part, the term 'Department' means the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and the term 'Secretary' means the Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources."

**SECTION 2.** G.S. 130A-155(c) reads as rewritten:

"(c) ~~Within 60 calendar days after the commencement of a new school year, the~~ The school shall file an annual immunization report with the Department. ~~Department by~~ November 1. The child care facility shall file an immunization report annually with the Department. The report shall be filed on forms prepared by the Department and shall state the number of children attending the school or facility, the number of children who had not obtained the required immunization within 30 days of their first attendance, the

1 number of children who received a medical exemption and the number of children who  
2 received a religious exemption."

3 **SECTION 3.** Article 7 of Chapter 130A of the General Statutes is amended  
4 by adding a new Part to read:

5 "Part 6. Injury Prevention.

6 **"§ 130A-224. Department to establish program.**

7 (a) To protect and enhance the public health, welfare, and safety, the Department  
8 shall establish and administer a comprehensive statewide injury prevention program.  
9 The Department shall designate the Division of Public Health as the lead agency for  
10 injury prevention activities. The Division of Public Health shall:

11 (1) Develop a comprehensive State plan for injury prevention;

12 (2) Maintain an injury prevention program that includes data collection,  
13 surveillance, and education and promotes injury control activities; and

14 (3) Develop collaborative relationships with other State agencies and  
15 private and community organizations to establish programs promoting  
16 injury prevention.

17 (b) The Commission for Health Services may adopt rules necessary to implement  
18 a statewide injury prevention program."

19 **SECTION 4.** G.S. 130A-382 reads as rewritten:

20 **"§ 130A-382. County medical examiners; appointment; term of office; vacancies.**

21 One or more county medical examiners for each county shall be appointed by the  
22 Chief Medical Examiner for a three-year term. County medical examiners shall be  
23 appointed from a list of physicians licensed to practice medicine in this State submitted  
24 by the medical society of the county in which the appointment is to be made. If no  
25 names are submitted by the society, the Chief Medical Examiner shall appoint one or  
26 more medical examiners from physicians in the county licensed to practice medicine in  
27 this State. In the event no licensed physician in a county accepts an appointment, the  
28 Chief Medical Examiner may appoint as acting county medical examiner one or more  
29 physicians licensed to practice medicine in this State from other counties or the local  
30 registrar, deputy registrar, subregistrar or coroner counties, a licensed physician  
31 assistant, a nurse, a coroner, or an individual who has taken an approved course of  
32 training as required by the Chief Medical Examiner. In the event a medical examiner is  
33 unable to serve in a particular case or for a temporary period of time, the Chief Medical  
34 Examiner shall designate a physician licensed to practice medicine in this State, the  
35 local registrar, deputy registrar, subregistrar or coroner. The acting county medical  
36 examiner shall have all the duties and authority of the physician medical examiner  
37 except to perform autopsies. A medical examiner may serve more than one county. The  
38 Chief Medical Examiner may take jurisdiction in any case or appoint another medical  
39 examiner to do so."

40 **SECTION 5.** G.S. 130A-381 reads as rewritten:

41 **"§ 130A-381. Additional services and facilities.**

42 In order to provide proper facilities for investigating deaths as authorized in this  
43 Part, the Chief Medical Examiner may arrange for the use of existing public or private  
44 laboratory facilities. Each county shall provide or contract for an appropriate facility for

1 the examination and storage of bodies under Medical Examiner jurisdiction. The Chief  
2 Medical Examiner may contract with qualified persons to perform or to provide support  
3 services for autopsies and other studies and investigations."

4 **SECTION 6.** This act is effective when it becomes law.