

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**  
**SESSION 2009**

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**HOUSE BILL 374\***

Short Title: Public Health Technical Changes. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Martin, Glazier, Farmer-Butterfield (Primary Sponsors);  
M. Alexander, England, E. Floyd, Harrison, Hughes, Insko, Lucas, and Pierce.

Referred to: Health, if favorable, Homeland Security, Military, and Veterans Affairs.

March 4, 2009

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT TO ADD PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS AND QUALITY IMPROVEMENT  
TO THE LIST OF ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES, AS RECOMMENDED  
BY THE JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND  
DISASTER MANAGEMENT RECOVERY.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.** G.S. 130A-1.1 reads as rewritten:

**"§ 130A-1.1. Mission and essential services.**

(a) The General Assembly recognizes that unified purpose and direction of the public health system is necessary to ensure that all citizens in the State have equal access to essential public health services. The General Assembly declares that the mission of the public health system is to promote and contribute to the highest level of health possible for the people of North Carolina by:

- (1) Preventing health risks and disease;
- (2) Identifying and reducing health risks in the community;
- (3) Detecting, investigating, and preventing the spread of disease;
- (4) Promoting healthy lifestyles;
- (5) Promoting a safe and healthful environment;
- (6) Promoting the availability and accessibility of quality health care services through the private sector; and
- (7) Providing quality health care services when not otherwise available.

(b) As used in this section, the term "essential public health services" means those services that the State shall ensure because they are essential to promoting and contributing to the highest level of health possible for the citizens of North Carolina. The Departments of Environment and Natural Resources and Health and Human Services shall attempt to ensure within the resources available to them that the following essential public health services are available and accessible to all citizens of the State, and shall account for the financing of these services:

- (1) Health Support:
  - a. Assessment of health status, health needs, and environmental risks to health;
  - b. Patient and community education;
  - c. Public health laboratory;
  - d. Registration of vital events;
  - e. Quality improvement; and
- (2) Environmental Health:



- 1 a. Lodging and institutional sanitation;
- 2 b. On-site domestic sewage disposal;
- 3 c. Water and food safety and sanitation; and
- 4 (3) Personal Health:
- 5 a. Child health;
- 6 b. Chronic disease control;
- 7 c. Communicable disease control;
- 8 d. Dental public health;
- 9 e. Family planning;
- 10 f. Health promotion and risk reduction;
- 11 g. Maternal ~~health~~ health; and
- 12 (4) Public Health Preparedness.

13 The Commission for Public Health shall determine specific services to be provided under  
14 each of the essential public health services categories listed above.

15 (c) The General Assembly recognizes that there are health-related services currently  
16 provided by State and local government and the private sector that are important to maintaining  
17 a healthy social and ecological environment but that are not included on the list of essential  
18 public health services required under this section. Omission of these services from the list of  
19 essential public health services shall not be construed as an intent to prohibit or decrease their  
20 availability. Rather, such omission means only that the omitted services may be more  
21 appropriately assured by government agencies or private entities other than the public health  
22 system.

23 (d) The list of essential public health services required by this section shall not be  
24 construed to limit or restrict the powers and duties of the Commission for Public Health or the  
25 Departments of Environment and Natural Resources and Health and Human Services as  
26 otherwise conferred by State law."

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