

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2015

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SENATE DRS15142-TRa-8 (02/12)

Short Title: Community Paramedicine Pilot Project/Funds. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Rabon, Lee, and Tucker (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO REDUCE HEALTH CARE EXPENDITURES FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES
3 AND HOSPITAL STAYS BY ESTABLISHING A COMMUNITY PARAMEDICINE
4 PILOT PROJECT.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 **SECTION 1.** There is appropriated to the Department of Health and Human
7 Services, Office of the Secretary, for fiscal year 2015-2016 the sum of two hundred ten
8 thousand dollars (\$210,000) for the purpose of implementing a community paramedicine pilot
9 project. The project shall focus on expanding the role of paramedics to allow for
10 community-based initiatives that result in providing care that avoids nonemergency use of
11 emergency rooms and 911 services, and avoids unnecessary admissions into health care
12 facilities.

13 **SECTION 2.** The North Carolina Office of Emergency Medical Services
14 (NCOEMS) shall set the education standards and other requirements necessary to qualify as a
15 community paramedic eligible to participate in the pilot program established in Section 1 of
16 this act. The Department shall consult with the NCOEMS to define the objectives, set
17 standards, and establish the required outcomes for the project.

18 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Health and Human Services shall establish up to
19 three program sites to implement the community paramedicine pilot project. Of the funds
20 appropriated in Section 1 of this act, each program site may be awarded up to seventy thousand
21 dollars (\$70,000) for fiscal year 2015-2016. The Department may give preference to counties
22 who currently have an established community paramedic program.

23 **SECTION 4.** The Department of Health and Human Services shall submit a report
24 to the Senate Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services, the House of
25 Representatives Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services, and the Fiscal
26 Research Division by June 1, 2016, on the progress of the project and shall include an
27 evaluation plan based on the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health
28 Resources and Services Administration Office of Rural Health Policy's, Community
29 Paramedicine Evaluation Tool, published in March 2012.

30 **SECTION 5.** The Department of Health and Human Services shall submit a final
31 report to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services and the
32 Fiscal Research Division by November 1, 2016. At a minimum, the final report shall include
33 the following:

- 34 (1) An updated version of the evaluation plan required by Section 4 of this act.
35 (2) An estimate of the cost to expand the program incrementally and statewide.



- 1 (3) An estimate of any potential savings of State funds associated with
2 expansion of the program.
3 (4) If expansion of the program is recommended, a time line for expanding the
4 program.
5 **SECTION 6.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2015.