

April 15, 1999

S 969. N.C. HEALTH AND WELLNESS TRUST FUND. *TO ESTABLISH THE NORTH CAROLINA HEALTH AND WELLNESS TRUST FUND FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECEIPT AND DISTRIBUTION OF TWENTY-FIVE PERCENT OF THE TOBACCO SETTLEMENT FUNDS IN THE SETTLEMENT RESERVE FUND ESTABLISHED UNDER G.S. 143-16.4 TO DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY-BASED PLAN AND FUND PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES FOR IMPROVING THE HEALTH AND WELLNESS OF THE PEOPLE OF NORTH CAROLINA WITH A PRIORITY ON PREVENTING, REDUCING, AND REMEDYING THE HEALTH EFFECTS OF TOBACCO USE WITH AN EMPHASIS ON REDUCING YOUTH TOBACCO USE.* As title indicates. Nonreverting fund will be established in the State Treasurer's Office. Administrative and operating expenses of the Board and staff are limited to two percent of annual fund balance on July 1. State agencies, local government units, and nonprofit corporations which have a major purpose of promoting public health, limiting youth access to tobacco products or reducing the health consequences of tobacco use are eligible for funds. Board consists of 17 members (5 appointed by the Governor; 5 by the General Assembly on recommendation of the Speaker of the House; 5 by the General Assembly on recommendation of the President Pro Tempore of the Senate; and the Chair of the UNC School of Public Health and State Public Health Director as ex officio, nonvoting members). Board members must be officers of, or affiliated with, nonprofit organizations, medical institutions, or governmental or law enforcement agencies, or individuals involved in delivering medical services, sale of products which have a major purpose of promoting public health, reducing youth access, and reducing the health consequences of tobacco use. Board terms generally will be four years after the initial board terms are staggered. Bill provides for meetings, per diems, general powers of the board, reporting requirements, and compliance with the open meetings law and public records act as well as audit by the State Auditor.

Intro. by Gulley.

Ref. to Judiciary I

GS 147

June 23, 1999

S 969. N.C. HEALTH AND WELLNESS TRUST FUND. Intro. 4/15/99. Senate committee substitute makes the following changes to 1st edition. Adds new GS 143-15.3D requiring the State Controller to allocate and reserve to the Health and Wellness Trust Fund 50% of the monies received in the Settlement Reserve Fund. Funds are to be used to address health needs and not to supplement funding of existing health programs. Adds new paragraph to GS 147-86.30 to require the Health and Wellness Trust Fund Board of Trustees to reserve and not spend 25% of each annual payment to the fund during years 1999 - 2025 to create the Fund Reserve and describes how reserved and nonreserved funds may be expended. Increases the amount that can be spent on operating and administrative expenses annually from 2 to 2 ½% of the annual balance or a total sum of \$1,000,000 whichever is less. Moves the Health and Wellness Trust Fund Board from the Department of Health and Human Services to the State Treasurer's Office and requires that office to provide meeting facilities for the Board. Requires the Board to comply with provisions of GS 14-234 prohibiting conflicts of interest. Authorizes the Board to hire staff or contract for expertise for the administration of the Trust Fund and to accept gifts and grants from other sources. Adds language to GS 143-16.4 requiring the State Controller to allocate and reserve 50% of the funds in the Settlement Reserve Fund to the Health and Wellness Trust Fund.