

February 19, 2001

S 180. LONG-TERM CARE/ENHANCEMENT FUNDS. TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR LABOR ENHANCEMENT PAYMENTS FOR WORKERS IN LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES AND AGENCIES. Appropriates \$17,670,975 for 2001-2002 and \$23,460,713 for 2002-2003 from General Fund to Dep't of Health & Human Services. Authorizes use of funds to match federal Medicaid funds to provide a 10% labor enhancement payment for Medicaid-reimbursed long-term care services. Provides that funds are in addition to routine inflationary increases in Medicaid reimbursements. Permits funds to be used only to increase wages or benefits for long-term care aide workers, or to provide for shift differential payments for long-term care aides who work during hard-to-fill working hours or shifts. Provides rules for allocation. Requires DHHS to report, no later than Jan. 15, 2002 to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services, the Senate Appropriations Committee on Human Resources, and the Legislative Study Comm'n on Aging on the use of this appropriation.

Appropriates \$1,406,029 for 2001-2002 and \$2,097,301 for 2002-2003 from General Fund to Dep't of Health & Human Services. to develop and implement a Carolina Educates Caregivers Program, outlined by this act. Program is to provide ongoing education and support to long-term caregivers, in a model like the TEACH program for child care workers. Limits administrative expenses to 10% of each year's appropriation, and provides for reversion of unexpended and unencumbered funds. Requires report on implementation no later than Jan. 15, 2002 to the NC Study Comm'n on Aging.

Appropriates \$100,000 for 2001-2002 from General Fund to Dep't of Health & Human Services, for development of a career ladder for long-term aide workers, as outlined in the act. Appropriates \$50,000 for 2001-2002 and \$50,000 for 2002-2003 from General Fund to Dep't of Health & Human Services, for collection of data about the long-term care aid workforce, as required by the act. Authorizes Legislative Research Comm'n to study workforce issues in the long-term care aid workforce.

Provisions concerning labor enhancement payments are effective Oct. 1, 2001. Remainder is effective July 1, 2001.

Intro. by Purcell.

Ref. to Appropriations	APPROP
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