

April 2, 2003

S 672. STRENGTHEN PUBLIC HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE. *TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM BY STRENGTHENING THE PUBLIC HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE, TO IMPROVE PUBLIC HEALTH OUTCOMES AND REDUCE HEALTH DISPARITIES BY THE DEVELOPMENT OF STATE AND LOCAL COMPREHENSIVE PUBLIC HEALTH PLANS, AND TO IMPROVE THE PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE BY ENHANCING COLLABORATION WITH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR ENTITIES AND IMPOSING PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTICE.* Adds new GS 130A-2.1 through -2.7 to (1) declare mission of state and local public health system; (2) specify responsibilities of state and local governments in the delivery of public health services; (3) require collaboration with private sector partners; (4) define essential public health services and functions; (5) specify specific duties of state agencies in improving public health infrastructure and its workforce (including establishment of certification or credentialing programs); (6) require state health agencies and counties to develop comprehensive public health plans, with specific components for each plan specified in bill; and (7) spell out in detail the tasks DHHS must perform to implement the plan, including the development of a consolidation plan that will result in between 10 and 20 local or regional health agencies by Jan. 1, 2005. Appropriates \$1 million to DHHS from General Fund for fiscal 2003-04 to provide incentives to local governments to consolidate local health agencies into regional health departments. Appropriation effective July 1, 2003.

Intro. by Hartsell.

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| Ref. to Health | GS 130A, APPROP |
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June 5, 2003

S 672. STRENGTHEN PUBLIC HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE. Intro. 4/02/03. Senate committee substitute makes the following changes to 1st edition. Removes from GS 130A-2 proposed definitions involving tribal public health programs. Adds provision to new GS 130A-2.2 a direction that state and local public health agencies obtain accreditation, with local agencies meeting state-set criteria and state meeting national criteria. Requires Dep't of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to develop accreditation program by Jan. 1, 2005. Amends proposed GS 130A-2.3, setting out essential public health services and functions, to make clear that state and local public health agencies may provide health care services, and makes other changes in list of services and functions. Requires each local health board and board of county commissioners to hold public hearing before adopting local public health plans; and requires state public health agency to hold series of public hearings around state before adopting comprehensive state public health plan. Deletes proposed amendments to GS 130A-5 (duties of Secretary of DHHS). Directs DHHS to review all current rules to identify those that are inconsistent with proposed act. Original bill directed DHHS to develop a health agency consolidation plan that would have resulted in between 10 and 20 local public health agencies by Jan. 1, 2005; committee substitute directs DHHS to develop a consolidation plan, in consultation with officials from NC Boards of Health, NC Ass'n of Local Health Directors, and NC Ass'n of County Commissioners but sets no minimum or maximum number of consolidated agencies.

Original bill appropriated \$1 million in 2003-04 from General Fund to DHHS to create incentives for counties to consolidate county health departments into multicounty departments; committee substitute removes that appropriation and instead appropriates \$25,000 in 2003-04 from General Fund to DHHS to pay for public hearings required for state comprehensive public health plan.

June 9, 2003

S 672. STRENGTHEN PUBLIC HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE. Intro. 4/2/03. Senate amendment makes the following changes to 2nd edition. Deletes appropriation of \$25,000 for 2003-04 and changes effective date to when act becomes law.

June 27, 2003

S 672. STRENGTHEN PUBLIC HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE. Intro. 4/2/03. Senate committee substitute makes the following changes to 2nd edition (as amended 6/9/03). Rewrites provisions pertaining to local public health plans as follows: Requires every county, through its local public health agency, to develop local priorities for public health addressing specified health concerns (was, counties must develop a local public health plan addressing the same concerns with minor modifications). Provides that the local priorities shall be the basis for a state plan for public health services. Requires counties to submit their priorities to the Sec'y of Health and Human Services by January 1, 2004. Directs Sec'y to develop and implement a state plan for public health services addressing the vision and mission of the state public health system, strategies for strengthening and maintaining the stability of the public health infrastructure, strategies for strengthening the public health workforce, priorities and goals for public health outcomes and improvements, a plan to identify resources for funding, an organizational plan for integrating and monitoring public health and environmental health services, and a framework for local public health planning. Requires Sec'y to appoint a planning committee to assist in the

development of the state plan. Requires Sec'y to develop and evaluate training for the public health workforce, to adopt and administer performance measurements within the public health system, and adopt and administer state and local public health workforce certification or credentialing programs. Provides that accreditation of a local public health agency shall be conditioned upon the agency's capacity to provide all essential public health services and functions in a manner that promotes quality of services and financial sustainability. Deletes requirement that Dep't of Health and Human Services develop and implement a consolidation plan for the public health system. Makes conforming changes, principally by deleting provisions pertaining to local public health plans and public health workforce.