

March 13, 2007

**S 710. IMMUNIZATION CHANGES.** Filed 3/13/07. *PERTAINING TO THE UNIVERSAL CHILDHOOD IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES; PROVIDING FOR ASSESSMENT OF HEALTH INSURERS FOR THE PURCHASE, STORAGE, DISTRIBUTION, AND QUALITY ASSURANCE OF CERTAIN VACCINES; AND AUTHORIZING AN ADMINISTRATION FEE FOR PROVIDERS THAT ADMINISTER VACCINES.*

Amends GS Chapter 130A by adding multiple new sections pertaining to the Universal Childhood Immunization Program (UCIP) administered by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

GS 130A-159 directs DHHS to include childhood immunization vaccines recommended by the Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Requires doctors providing childhood vaccines to participate in the North Carolina UCIP and provides guidelines for the selection of vaccines by health care providers participating in the UCIP.

GS 130A-159.1 creates in the General Fund a non-reverting restricted receipts account to be known as the Childhood Immunization Account. Directs that all the funds are to be used to administer the provisions under GS 130A-159.

GS 130A-159.3 requires DHHS to assess by June 1, 2007, the dollar amount to purchase, store, distribute, and provide quality assurance for listed vaccines for routine immunizations in conformity with standards established by the CDC for recommended immunization practices after June 1, 2007, for which a federal contract price has been established. Directs DHHS to provide, on March 1, an annual report to the General Assembly and the Commissioner of Insurance, on the UCIP and costs related to the program.

Requires the Commissioner of Insurance, after notice and opportunity for hearing, to determine the annual health insurer assessment for the purchase, storage, distribution, and quality assurance of listed vaccines. Health insurers must pay the assessment by March 31 each year. Provides additional guidelines regarding health insurer assessments and interim assessments for new vaccines.

GS 130A-159.4 directs the Commission for Health Services to establish by rule a reasonable administration fee to be reimbursed by health insurers to any provider, including local health departments, administering a vaccine included in the UCIP.

Enacts new GS 58-3-262 to require health insurers to provide the Commissioner of Insurance with information necessary for the commissioner to determine the assessment required under new GS 130A-159.3

**Intro. by Purcell.**

GS 58, 130A