GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA SESSION 2009

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SENATE BILL 765

House Committee Substitute Favorable 7/1/10 House Committee Substitute #2 Favorable 7/6/10 PROPOSED HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE S765-PCS35492-RO-124

Short Title: Pooled Trusts/Medicaid Reimbur.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 24, 2009

1	A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2	AN ACT TO AMEND THE GENERAL STATUTES WITH RESPECT TO COMMUNITY
3	THIRD PARTY TRUSTS AND MEDICAID POOLED TRUSTS, AND TO PROVIDE
4	FOR MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.
5	The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:
6	SECTION 1 . Chapter 36D of the General Statutes reads as rewritten:
7	"Chapter 36D.
8	North Carolina Community <u>Third Party Trusts, Pooled Trusts. Trust for Persons with</u>
9	Severe Chronic Disabilities.
10	"§ 36D-1. Title; findings.
11	(a) This Article-Chapter shall be known and may be cited as the "North Carolina
12	Community Third Party Trusts, Pooled Trusts Act." Trust for Persons With Severe Chronic
13	Disabilities Act".
14	(b) The General Assembly finds that it is in the public interest to encourage activities by
15	voluntary associations and private citizens that will supplement and augment those services
16	provided by local, State, and federal government agencies in discharge of their responsibilities
17	toward individuals with severe chronic disabilities. The General Assembly further finds that, as
18	a result of changing social, economic, and demographic trends, families of persons with severe
19	chronic disabilities are increasingly aware of the need for a vehicle by which they can assure
20	ongoing individualized personal concern for a severely disabled family member with a
21	disability who may survive that disabled person's his or her parents or other family members,
22	and provide for the efficient management of small legacies or trust funds to be used for the
23	benefit of that person with a disability.disabled person. In a number of other states, voluntary
24	associations have established foundations or trusts intended to be responsive to these concerns.
25	Therefore, the General Assembly finds that North Carolina will benefit by the enactment of
26	enabling legislation expressly authorizing the formation of community trusts Community Third
27	Party Trusts and Pooled Trusts in accordance with <u>42 U.S.C. § 1396p(d)(4) and criteria set</u>
28	forth by statute and administered by the Secretary of State, State under Chapter 55A of the
29	General Statutes. These community trusts permit the pooling of resources contributed by
30	families or persons with philanthropic intent, along with the reservation of portions of these
31	funds for the use and benefit of designated beneficiaries.



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1	(c) This	Article Chapter shall be liberally construed and applied to promote	e its
2		oses and policies, which are, among others, to:	
3	(1)	Encourage the orderly establishment of community trusts for the beneficial	fit of
4		persons with severe chronic disabilities;	
5	(2)	Ensure that community trustsCommunity Third Party or Pooled Trust	s for
6		the benefit of persons with severe chronic disabilities are established	
7		administered properly and that the managing boards of the trusts are	
8		from conflicts of interest; interest.	
9	(3)	Facilitate sound administration of trust funds for persons with severe cha	ronic
10		disabilities by allowing family members-members, persons with disabil	
11		and others to pool resources in order to make professional manager	ment
12		investment more efficient; efficient.	
13	(4)	Provide parents of persons with severe chronic disabilities peace of min	nd in
14		knowing that a means exists to ensure that the interests of their children	who
15		have severe chronic disabilities are properly looked after and managed	after
16		the parents die or become incapacitated; incapacitated.	
17	(5)	Help make Assist in making guardians available for persons with se	evere
18		chronic disabilities who are incompetent, when no other family memb	er is
19		available for this purpose;<u>p</u>urpose .	
20	(6)	Encourage the availability of private resources to purchase for persons	
21		severe chronic disabilities goods and services that are not available thr	-
22		any governmental or charitable program and to conserve these resource	-
23		limiting purchases to those that are not available from other sources; sour	
24	(7)	Encourage the inclusion, as beneficiaries of community Community	
25		Party or Pooled Trusts, trusts, of persons who lack resources and w	
26		families are indigent, in a way that does not diminish the resources avai	
27		to other beneficiaries whose families have contributed to the trust.trust; a	
28	(8)	Remove the disincentives that discourage parents and others from se	-
29		aside funds for the future protection of persons with severe cha	
30		disabilities by ensuring that the interest of beneficiaries in commun	•
31		trusts that meet the rules set forth by the Department are not consid	
32		assets or income that would disqualify them from any governmenta	al or
33		charitable entitlement program with an economic means test.	c
34	<u>(9)</u>	Require, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1396p(d)(4), the payback of monies	
35		Pooled Trusts up to an amount equal to the total amount of assistance	-
36		for by the Department on behalf of or to the beneficiary from any f	
37 38		remaining in the beneficiary's individual trust account upon the death of individual or the termination of the individual trust account.	<u>n the</u>
38 39	(d) Noth	individual or the termination of the individual trust account.	otion
39 40		ing in this Chapter shall affect the establishment, interpretation, or constru- instruments which do not conform with the provisions of this Chapter, nor	
40		pair the State's authority to be paid from or seek reimbursement from	
42		which does not conform with the provisions of this Chapter or to deem	-
43		ome of any nonconforming 36D Trust an available resource under any prog	
44		penefits or assistance.	<u>Eram</u>
45	"§ 36D-2. Defin		
46		his Article, Chapter, unless the context clearly requires otherwise:	
47	(1)	<u>"Beneficiary" means Beneficiary. – Any of the following persons:</u>	
48	(*/	<u>a.</u> <u>Any person of any age any person with a severe chronic disal</u>	bility
49		who has qualified as a member of the <u>Community Third Party T</u>	-
50		funded with assets of a third party or by will.	<u>•</u>

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1 2 3		b. Any person who meets the definition of disability U.S.C. § 1382c(a)(3) on whose behalf an individual Trust subaccount was established by the parent, gran	Medicaid Pooled
4 5		guardian of the individual, by the individ <u>court.community trust program and who has the</u>	
6		those services and benefits vested with the mar	-
3 7		business and affairs of a corporation, formed for	0
8 9		managing a community trust, irrespective of the na group is designated.	
10	(2)	"Community trust" means a Community Third Party Trust.	– A trust funded
11	(2)	with the assets of a third party for the benefit of a person	of any age with
12		severe chronic disabilities, that is administered by a nonpu	ofit organization
13		<u>corporation</u> that offers the following services:	the according to the second of
14		a. Administration of special -trust funds for persons wi	in severe chronic
15 16		disabilities; disabilities.	
10		b. Follow along services;services.c. Guardianship for persons with severe chronic disa	bilities who are
17		incompetent, when no other family member or im-	
19		available for this purpose; and purpose.	incutate mente is
20		d. Advice and counsel <u>Information and referral service</u>	s to persons who
20		have been appointed as individual guardians of the p	
22		of persons with severe chronic disabilities.	croons or estates
23	<u>(2a)</u>	Department. – The Department of Health and Human Service	es.
24	$\frac{(2b)}{(2b)}$	Family members. – Persons who are related by blood or ma	
25	<u>(</u>	sixth degree to the beneficiary.	<u></u>
26	(3)	"Follow along services" Follow-along services. – Include	s the following:
27	(-)	means (i) those services offered by community trustsComm	
28		or Pooled Trusts that are designed to ensure that the	
29		beneficiary are being met for as long as may be required	
30		periodic visits to the beneficiary and to the places where	•
31		receives services, (ii) participation in the development of	•
32		plans being made by service providers for the beneficiary	
33		similar services consistent with the purposes of this Article.	<u>Chapter.</u>
34	<u>(3a)</u>	Medicaid Pooled Trust, pooled trust, or umbrella pooled	trust. – A trust
35		pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1396p(d)(4)(C) and the rules set	forth for pooled
36		trusts by the Department that meets all of the following requ	irements:
37		<u>a.</u> <u>The trust is irrevocable.</u>	
38		b. The trust contains a separate subaccount for each b	
39		trust, but the funds in the accounts are pooled for	
40		investment and management of funds. Investment of	-
41		to this subdivision shall be in accord with G.S. 32	71, the Prudent
42		Person rule.	
43		c. <u>The beneficiary is disabled as defined by 42 U.S.C.</u>	
44		d. <u>The trust is established solely for the benefit of the</u>	
45		parent, grandparent, legal guardian, by the benefician	<u>y, or by a court.</u>
46		 <u>e.</u> <u>The trust was created on or after April 1, 1994.</u> <u>f.</u> <u>The trust provides that upon the death of the bene</u> 	ficiant the Oter
47			
48		will receive all amounts remaining in the beneficiar	• •
49 50		the total amount of medical assistance paid on bonoficiary as set forth in G.S. 36D 6	<u>i benan of the</u>
50		beneficiary as set forth in G.S. 36D-6.	

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1		<u>g.</u>	Trust	language governing each Me	dicaid Pooled Trust shall be
2		-		ved by the Department.	
3		h.	A Me	dicaid Pooled Trust shall be	e established by a nonprofit
4				ation that offers any of the follo	
5			<u>1.</u>		for persons with a disability as
6				defined in 42 U.S.C. § 1382c(a	
7			<u>2.</u>	Follow-along services.	
8		-	<u>2.</u> <u>3.</u>	Guardianship for individuals v	vith a disability pursuant to 42
9				U.S.C. § 1382c(a)(3) who are	e incompetent, when no other
10				family member or immediate	e friend is available for this
11				purpose.	
12		:	<u>4.</u>	Information and referral service	ces to persons who have been
13				appointed as individual guardia	ans of the persons or estates of
14				persons with a disability pursua	ant to 42 U.S.C. § 1382c(a)(3).
15	(4)			nic disability" means Severe chr	
16				s one or more areas of independ	
7			-	ment that is expected to give	-
8		-		alth, social, and other services,	1
19			-	dependent upon others for assist	
20	(5)	-		st funds" means funds accu	
21				made on behalf of an individ	•
22				eneficiary, are determined by the	
23				providing services during the b	•
24				y's share of administrative costs.	
25	(6)			ans any member of the board of	-
26				maging a community trust, whe	
27	(—)			rector, manager, governor, or by	
28	<u>(7)</u>			<u>– No individual other than the</u>	beneficiary benefits from the
29				rectly or indirectly.	
30	<u>(8)</u>			<u>funds. – All funds remaining ir</u>	
31				her by death of the beneficiary of	
32	<u>(9)</u>			n original, additional, or succe	
33				t appointed or confirmed by a co	burt. The term does not include
34	(10)			rtgages and deeds of trust.	
35	(10)		ust. $-A$	Any trust governed by this Chap	ter.
36	"§ 36D-3. Scope				
37				s to every community trust<u>Cor</u>	
38				ed in this State. In addition to a	e 1
39 40		-	•	board that administers a <u>Con</u>	•
40 41				nity trust shall incorporate as a nutrice at a structure of the shall incorporate as a structure of the shall be structure of the shall be a structure of the shall be a s	1 1
+1 2	-			plies to community trusts.all trusts.	
+2 13				e General Statutes, the Uniform	
+3 14		-		it applies to trusts under the	
14 15				rustee of a pooled trust is liable	
+3 46	÷			in a way that is not for the s	÷
+0 47				ust. The terms of the trust shall	
+7 48	"sole benefit" as c				not contradict the meaning of
9				<u>Community Third Party and</u>	Pooled Trusts, nowers and
50	duties		<u> </u>	Community find faity and	<u>i i obicu i i usis</u> , powers anu
<i>.</i>	uuuus	•			

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Every community trust Community Third Party or Pooled Trust shall be 1 (a) 2 administered by a board. The board shall be comprised of no less than nine and no more than 3 21 members, at least one-third of whom are parents or relatives of persons with severe chronic 4 disabilities. No board member shall be a provider of habilitative, health, social, or educational 5 services to persons with severe chronic disabilities or an employee of such a service provider. 6 The board may, however, allow service providers to serve on the board in an advisory capacity. 7 Board members shall be selected, to the maximum extent possible, from geographic areas 8 throughout the area served by the trust.

9 The certificate of incorporation filed with the Secretary of State under Chapter 55A of the 10 General Statutes shall, in addition to the requirements set forth in that Chapter, demonstrate that 11 the requirements of this section have been met.

12 (b) Notwithstanding any other law, no trustee may be compensated for services 13 provided as a member of the board of a <u>Community Third Party or Pooled Trust.</u> community 14 trust. No fees or commissions shall be paid to these trustees; however, a trustee may be paid for 15 necessary expenses incurred by the trustee and may receive indemnification as permitted under 16 Chapter 55A of the General-<u>Statutes.</u> Statutes as it applies to nonprofit organizations.

17 (c) For every <u>Community Third Party or Pooled Trustcommunity trust</u> incorporated 18 under this <u>Article, Chapter</u>, the corporation itself is considered the trustee of any funds 19 administered by it. No individual board member is considered to be trustee of any fund 20 deposited on behalf of any individual beneficiary with severe chronic disabilities.

(d) The board shall adopt bylaws that include a declaration delineating the primary
 geographic area serviced by the trust and the principal services to be provided. The board shall
 file the bylaws with the Secretary of State.

(e) The board may retain paid staff as it considers necessary to provide follow alongservices to the extent required by each beneficiary.

26 The Community Third Party or Pooled Trust community trust may authorize the (e1) 27 expenditure of funds for any goods or services, including recreational services, which the 28 board, in its sole discretion, determines-will promote the well-being of and is for the sole benefit 29 of the any beneficiary. The Community Third Party or Pooled Trust community trust may pay 30 for the reasonable burial expenses of any beneficiary.beneficiary; however, if the beneficiary receives SSI benefits, burial expenses may be paid for only as allowed by Social Security 31 32 Administration regulations. The Community Third Party or Pooled Trustcommunity trust, 33 however, may not expend funds for any goods or services of comparable quality to those 34 available to any particular beneficiary through any governmental or charitable program, 35 insurance, or other sources. The Community Third Party or Pooled Trust community trust may 36 expend funds to meet the reasonable costs of administering the Community Third Party or 37 Pooled Trust.community trust.

(f) The <u>Community Third Party or Pooled Trust community trust</u> is not required to provide services to a beneficiary who is a competent adult and who has refused to accept the services. Further, the <u>Community Third Party or Pooled Trust community trust</u> shall not provide services of a nature or in a manner that would be contrary to the public policy of this State at the time the services are to be provided. In either case, the <u>Community Third Party or</u> <u>Pooled Trust community trust</u> may offer alternate services that are consistent with the purposes of this <u>Article Chapter</u> and in keeping with the best interests of the beneficiary.

45 (g) The <u>Community Third Party or Pooled Trust</u> community trust may accept 46 appointment as guardian of the person, guardian of the estate, or guardian of both on behalf of 47 any beneficiary. If the <u>Community Third Party or Pooled Trust</u> community trust accepts 48 appointment as guardian of the person of an individual, it shall assign a staff member to carry 49 out its responsibilities as the guardian. The <u>Community Third Party or Pooled Trust</u> community 49 trust may, upon request, offer consultative and professional assistance to an individual, private 50 or public guardian of any of its beneficiaries.

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1 2 3 4	(h) The <u>Community Third Party or Pooled Trust</u> community trust may accept contributions, bequests, and designations under life insurance policies to the <u>Community Third</u> <u>Party or Pooled Trust</u> community trust on behalf of individuals with severe chronic disabilities for the purpose of qualifying them as beneficiaries.
4 5	(i) At the time a contribution, bequest, or assignment of insurance proceeds is
6	made, made to a Community Third Party Trust, or to a beneficiary of a Pooled Trust, the trustor
7	shall receive a written statement of the services to be provided to the beneficiary. The statement
8	shall include a starting date for the delivery of services or the condition precedent, such as the
9	death of the trustor, which shall determine the starting date. The statement shall describe the
10	frequency with which services shall be provided and their duration, and the criteria or
11	procedures for modifying the program of services from time to time in the best interests of the
12	beneficiary. In addition, there shall be a properly executed trust agreement between the
13	Community Third Party or Pooled Trust and the trustor.
14	(j) <u>No trustee, board member, or paid staff member of a Community Third Party or</u>
15	Pooled Trust shall undertake legal representation or other professional services on behalf of the
16 17	trust or its beneficiaries. (b) The Department shall be given a minimum of 20 days notice if there is to be a
17 18	(k) The Department shall be given a minimum of 30 days notice if there is to be a change in tructed
18 19	<u>change in trustee.</u> "§ 36D-5. <u>Community Third Party and Pooled Trust Accountability.accountability.</u>
20	(a) Along with the annual report filed with the Secretary of State under Chapter 55A of
20	the General Statutes, the <u>Community Third Party or Pooled Trust</u> community trust shall file an
22	itemized statement that shows the funds collected for the year, income earned, salaries, other
23	expenses incurred, and the opening and final trust balances. A copy of this statement the annual
24	individual accounting statement of each beneficiary's subaccount shall be made
25	available, available by the trustee, upon request, to the Department, any beneficiary, guardian,
26	trustor, or designee of the trustor. In addition, once annually, each trustor or the trustor's
27	designee shall receive a detailed individual statement of the services provided to the trustor's
28	beneficiary during the previous 12 months and the services to be provided during the following
29	12 months. The Community Third Party or Pooled Trust community trust shall make a copy of
30	the individual statement available to any beneficiary, upon request.
31	(b) The Department or its agents may perform annual audits of any Community Third
32	Party or Pooled Trusts existing in the State.
33	"§ 36D-6. Gifts, <u>Community Third Party or Pooled Trust</u> surplus trust funds.
34	(a) Community Third Party and Pooled Trusts may accept gifts and use surplus trust
35	funds to meet reasonable start-up costs and reduce the charges to the trust for the cost of
36	administration and for the purpose of qualifying as beneficiary any indigent person whose
37	family members lack the resources to make a full contribution on that person's behalf. A
38	maximum of fifty percent (50%) of the surplus trust funds may be retained in the Community
39 40	<u>Third Party or Pooled Trust account for this purpose as well as to cover administrative costs.</u> Gifts made to the Community Third Party or Pooled Trust for an unspecified purpose shall be
40	used by the trust either to qualify indigent persons whose families lack the means to qualify
42	them as beneficiaries of the trust or to meet any reasonable start-up or administrative costs that
43	the trust incurs.
44	(b) For Community Third Party Trusts, remaining surplus trust funds may be distributed
45	to additional beneficiaries as specified in the Trust Agreement.
46	(c) For Medicaid Pooled Trusts, upon termination of an individual trust account, the
47	surplus trust funds remaining in the individual account shall be used to satisfy any claims or
48	liens of the Department, up to an amount equal to the total medical assistance paid on behalf of
49	or to the disabled individual by the Department. The amount retained by the trust shall be
50	determined on a sliding scale calculation, based upon the number of years the disabled
51	individual received services from the nonprofit corporation, but in no instance shall the trust

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retain more than fifty percent (50%) of the surplus trust funds, unless the claims or liens of the 1 2 Department are less than fifty percent (50%) of the surplus trust funds. 3 A Medicaid Pooled Trust may not distribute surplus trust funds to any (d) 4 remaindermen identified in the trust document unless there are funds remaining after all claims or liens of the Department have been satisfied, nor shall it use surplus trust funds to make any 5 charitable contribution on behalf of any beneficiary or any group or class of beneficiaries. The 6 7 community trust may accept gifts and use surplus trust funds for the purpose of qualifying as 8 beneficiary any indigent person whose family members lack the resources to make a full 9 contribution on that person's behalf. The extent and character of the services and selection of beneficiaries are at the discretion of the community trust. The community trust may not use 10 surplus trust funds to make any charitable contribution on behalf of any beneficiary or any 11 12 group or class of beneficiaries. The community trust may accept gifts to meet start up costs, 13 reduce the charges to the trust for the cost of administration, and for any other purpose that is 14 consistent with this Article. Gifts made to the trust for an unspecified purpose shall be used by 15 the community trust either to qualify indigent persons whose families lack the means to qualify 16 them as beneficiaries of the trust or to meet any start-up costs that the trust incurs. "§ 36D-7. Special requests on behalf of beneficiary. The community trustCommunity Third Party Trust may agree to fulfill any special requests

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18 19 made on behalf of a beneficiary as long as the requests are consistent with this Article-Chapter 20 and provided that an adequate contribution has been made for this purpose on behalf of a beneficiary. The Medicaid Pooled Trust may only disburse subaccount trust funds if such 21 22 disbursement is in the sole benefit of the beneficiary. The community trust may agree to serve 23 as trustee for any individual trust created on behalf of a beneficiary, regardless of whether the 24 trust is revocable or irrevocable, has one or more remaindermen or contingent beneficiaries, or 25 any other condition, so long as the individual trust is consistent with the purposes of this 26 Article.

27 "§ 36D-8. Irrevocability; impossibility of fulfillment.

28 A community trust for persons with severe chronic disabilities is irrevocable, but the 29 trustees in their sole discretion may provide compensation for any contribution to the trust to 30 any trustor who, upon good cause, withdraws a beneficiary designated by the trustor from the 31 trust, or if it becomes impossible to fulfill the conditions of the trust with regard to an 32 individual beneficiary for reasons other than the death of the beneficiary.

33 "§ 36D-9. Beneficiary's interest in trust not asset for income eligibility determination.

34 Notwithstanding any provisions of Chapter 108A of the General Statutes, the The 35 beneficiary's interest in any community trust 36D Trust is not considered to be an asset for the 36 purpose of determining income eligibility for any publicly operated program, nor shall that 37 interest be reached in satisfaction of a claim for support and maintenance of the beneficiary. 38 The Department shall not reduce the benefits or services available to any individual because 39 that person is the beneficiary of a 36D Trust. The Department may authorize termination of an 40 individual's eligibility for medical assistance or impose sanctions as necessary for failure of a purported 36D Trust to comply with the requirements of this Chapter and any rules adopted by 41 42 the Department pursuant to this Chapter. The Department may authorize termination of an individual's eligibility for medical assistance or impose sanctions as necessary for failure of the 43 trustee to administer the 36D Trust in a manner consistent with this Chapter, the rules adopted 44 by the Department pursuant to this Chapter, and federal law and policy. No agency shall reduce 45 the benefits of services available to any individual because that person is the beneficiary of a 46 47 community trust.

48 "§ 36D-10. Trust not subject to law against perpetuities; restraints on alienation.

49 A community trust36D Trust shall not be subject to or held to be in violation of any 50 principle of law against perpetuities or restraints on alienation or perpetual accumulations of 51 trusts.

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1	"§ 36D-11. Settlement; trustee limitations.
2	The community trust shall settle a community trust by filing a final accounting in the
3	superior court. In addition, at
4	(a) The trustee of a Medicaid Pooled Trust shall provide a final disbursement and
5	accounting for an individual Pooled Trust subaccount to the Division of Medical Assistance,
6	Third Party Recovery Section, within 30 days of the receipt of an accounting of charges from
7	Medicaid, after the death of the beneficiary or other termination of the trust. An individual
8	Pooled Trust subaccount shall terminate upon the death of the beneficiary and the satisfaction
9	of all outstanding charges.
10	(b) At any time before the settlement of the final account, the community
11	trust, Community Third Party or Pooled Trust, the Secretary of State, or the Attorney General
12	may bring an action for the dissolution of a nonprofit corporation in the superior court for the
13	purpose of terminating the trust or merging it with another charitable trust.
14	(c) No trustee or any private individual is entitled to share in the distribution of any of
15	the trust assets upon dissolution, merger, or settlement of the Community Third Party or Pooled
16	Trust. community trust. Upon dissolution, merger, or settlement, the superior court shall
17	distribute all of the remaining net assets of the Community Third Party or Pooled Trust
18	community trust in a manner that is consistent with the purposes of this Article. Chapter.
19	" <u>§ 36D-12. Administrative rules.</u>
20	The Department shall adopt rules pursuant to Chapter 150B of the General Statutes
21	governing the eligibility of beneficiaries for State medical assistance and State-County Special
22	Assistance, and to supplement and expand upon the general requirements set forth in this
23	Chapter, including, but not limited to, rules that may be more restrictive than the general
24	requirements of this Chapter. With respect to Medicaid Pooled Trusts, a subaccount is
25	irrevocable. The State shall be paid an amount up to the total medical assistance paid on behalf
26	of the beneficiary by the Department from funds remaining in the individual trust subaccount
27	upon the death of the beneficiary or termination of the trust as described in this Chapter. If the
28	pooled trust is to be funded with the proceeds of a settlement of a lawsuit against a third party,
29	the settlement proceeds are subject to the Department's subrogated rights of recovery as set
30	forth in G.S. 108A-57, and all such subrogated rights of recovery shall be satisfied in full prior
31	to execution and judicial approval of the trust, or both."
32	SECTION 2. This act is effective when it becomes law.