

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2013

H.B. 981
Apr 17, 2013
HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

H

D

HOUSE DRH80307-MGa-41 (01/28)

Short Title: New MHDDSA Region & Psych. Hospital. (Public)

Sponsors: Representative Burr.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT REQUIRING THE COMMISSION FOR MENTAL HEALTH, DEVELOPMENTAL
3 DISABILITIES, AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES TO DESIGNATE AN
4 ADDITIONAL REGION TO MEET THE NEEDS OF INDIVIDUALS RESIDING IN
5 SOUTH CENTRAL NORTH CAROLINA WHO HAVE BEEN DIAGNOSED WITH
6 MENTAL ILLNESS, INTELLECTUAL OR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY, OR
7 SUBSTANCE ABUSE DISORDER; AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS TO THE
8 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES FOR THE CONSTRUCTION
9 OF A NEW STATE PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL IN THIS NEWLY DESIGNATED
10 SOUTH CENTRAL REGION.

11 Whereas, from 2001 to 2012, the total population of North Carolina increased from
12 8,203,734 persons to 9,781,022 persons, which represents an increase of over one and a half
13 million residents; and

14 Whereas, the number of North Carolina residents in need of services for serious
15 mental illness increased from 517,447 in 2001 to 613,379 in 2012; and

16 Whereas, since 2001, the number of inpatient psychiatric beds in this State has
17 decreased by fifty percent (50%), from approximately 1,750 beds to approximately 850 beds;
18 and

19 Whereas, this decrease in the number of inpatient psychiatric beds is attributed, in
20 part, to North Carolina's commitment to (i) developing and implementing effective measures to
21 prevent inappropriate institutionalization of individuals with serious mental illness and (ii)
22 providing adequate and appropriate public services and supports in the most integrated setting
23 appropriate to meet the needs of individuals with serious mental illness; and

24 Whereas, in some instances, this decrease in the number of inpatient psychiatric
25 beds for the treatment of acutely or chronically ill individuals diagnosed with serious mental
26 illness has had the unintended consequence of negatively impacting the health of individuals
27 diagnosed with severe mental illness for whom institutionalization is, in fact, appropriate; and

28 Whereas, in the absence of an adequate number of available inpatient psychiatric
29 beds, many individuals with serious mental illness are increasingly gravitating toward hospital
30 emergency departments or ending up in jails and prisons when they experience a disabling
31 crisis; and

32 Whereas, hospital emergency departments, jails, and prisons are unequipped to
33 provide acutely or chronically ill individuals diagnosed with serious mental illness with the
34 appropriate psychiatric treatment for their condition; Now, therefore,
35 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:



1 **SECTION 1.** The Commission for Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and
2 Substance Abuse Services shall amend the rules adopted pursuant to G.S. 143b-147(a)(1)a. to
3 designate an additional region in south central North Carolina for the admission, treatment, and
4 professional care of individuals residing in that area with a primary diagnosis of mental illness,
5 intellectual or developmental disability, or substance abuse disorder. This newly designated
6 south central region shall be comprised of at least all of the following counties: Anson,
7 Cabarrus, Davidson, Davie, Forsyth, Mecklenburg, Montgomery, Moore, Randolph,
8 Richmond, Rowan, Scotland, Stanly, and Union.

9 **SECTION 2.(a)** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
10 Health and Human Services the sum of twenty-three million nine hundred ninety-six thousand
11 nine hundred six dollars (\$23,996,906) for the 2013-2014 fiscal year. These funds shall be
12 used for planning, site development, and construction of a new 200-bed State psychiatric
13 hospital to provide acute psychiatric treatment services to individuals residing within the new
14 region designated in accordance with Section 1 of this act. The location of the new State
15 psychiatric hospital shall be one that maximizes access by individuals residing within the
16 region and efficiencies in service and administration. Once a site is chosen for the new State
17 psychiatric hospital, the Department shall report the location to the Joint Legislative
18 Commission on Governmental Operations, the Senate Appropriations Committee on Health
19 and Human Services, the House of Representatives Appropriations Subcommittee on Health
20 and Human Services, the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human
21 Services, and the Fiscal Research Division.

22 **SECTION 2.(b)** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
23 Health and Human Services the sum of ninety-five million nine hundred eighty-seven thousand
24 six hundred twenty-five dollars (\$95,987,625) for the 2014-2015 fiscal year. These funds shall
25 be used for construction of the new 200-bed State psychiatric hospital described in Section 2(a)
26 of this act.

27 **SECTION 3.** Section 2 of this act becomes effective July 1, 2013. The remainder
28 of this act is effective when it becomes law.